



THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR
JANICE KOERBER, ASST. EDITOR

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I don't know what to say?

Not much going on . . .except:

The Migrant Crisis

The humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East

The City Council looking like "Council Wars."

We have the Worst and Best Schools in the state

Gun violence

Daily briefings on a former president's legal woes.

I can go on. My brain is not large enough to take this all in or figure out what I should be doing. Except just take care of business in my own back yard.

There are two ads in this publication for Winter Coat Drives. There are a variety of ways to help the Migrants living in and in front of our local police station. See page 16.

There are a number of good charities where you can donate and help the humanitarian cause in the Middle East and elsewhere. But "vet" them first with Charity Navigator.

I have one organization I donate to quarterly for education regarding gun violence. We can make change. It won't be easy or fast.

And for your own mental health, go to a play or to a museum or see and hear live music.

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

Vol. 11, No.14

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JAZZ SHOWCASE

Thu-Sat, Nov 9-11, 8pm & 10pm.....Isaiah Collier & The Chosen Few
 Sun, Nov 12, 4pm & 8pm..... Isaiah Collier & The Chosen Few
 Mon, Nov 13, 7:30pm.....Roosevelt University CCPA
 Tue, Nov 14, 8pm & 10pm.....WDCB 90.9 FM featuring Theotis Rogers Trio
 Wed, Nov 15, 6pm & 9pm.....Honoring the Man in Black: Celebrating the Life of Jim Dejong
 Thu, Nov 16, 8pm & 10pm.....Julian Davis Reid’s Circle of Trust
 Fri-Sat, Nov 17-18, 8pm & 10pm.....Kurt Rosenwinkel-The Chopin Project
 Sun, Nov 19, 4pm & 8pm.....Kurt Rosenwinkel-The Chopin Project
 Mon, Nov 20, 8pm & 10pm.....New Standard Jazz Orchestra
 Tue, Nov 21, 8pm & 10pm.....Petra’s Recession Seven
 Wed, Nov 22, 8pm & 10pm.....Chicago Soul Jazz Collective featuring Dee Alexander
 Thu-Sat, Nov 23-25, 8pm & 10pm.....Justin Robinson Quartet-Tribute to Roy Hargrove
 Sun, Nov 26, 4pm & 8pm..... Justin Robinson Quartet-Tribute to Roy Hargrove
 Mon, Nov 27, 8pm & 10pm.....Christian Dillingham Quartet
 Wed, Nov 29, 8pm & 10pm.....Julian & Friends
 Thu-Sat, Nov 30-Dec 2, 8pm & 10pm.....Columbia College Jazz Ensemble directed by Scott Hall & trumpeter Russell Gunn



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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 – Sarah Breedlove

Director – Roger Marsh

Director – Greg Borzo

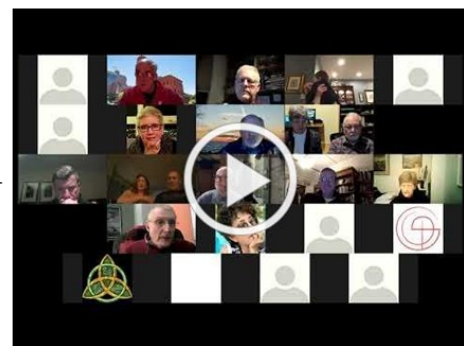
Director – Jack Chalabian

Director – Susan Zinner

Director – Robert Hard

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.



Sincerely, Marianne

Why I'm in Medicare Advantage

By **Marianne Goss**

It's Medicare Open Enrollment season until December 7. New enrollees can sign up for a plan, and those already in Medicare can switch plans if desired.

There are two ways of enrolling in Medicare.

Original Medicare is the government-run program that pays 80 percent of covered services. Those who choose Original Medicare add a Medigap supplement to pay the other 20 percent, plus a plan to cover drugs.

Medicare Advantage, which is offered by private insurance companies, bundles all coverage into one plan. Medicare Advantage plans are growing in popularity, claiming more than half of Medicare enrollees today, because they offer lower premiums (many \$0) and more coverage than Original Medicare.

So why wouldn't everyone choose Medicare Advantage?

Two critics listed drawbacks in the October 29 *Chicago Tribune*. Here are the main ones, along with comments from a Medicare Advantage veteran — me. I've been in the Medicare Advantage plan Humana Gold Plus for nine years.

- Medicare Advantage works well for younger, healthy people but gets costlier if your health declines. That's because Medicare Advantage charges copays for treatments and hospitalizations that are paid for by Medigap plans.

I haven't reached the point where the balance tips in favor of Original Medicare, if I ever will. Compared with the current average Medigap monthly premium of \$164 for someone my age (according to MedicareSupplement.com), I have paid \$0 in premiums during my nine years with Humana Gold Plus. If I had been hospitalized for a week at the plan's 2023 rate of \$150 a day, Humana Gold Plus would still have cost me less than the combined premiums for Medigap and a drug plan for not even six months. In addition, Medicare Advantage plans have an annual out-of-pocket limit, which Original Medicare does not.

Humana Gold Plus covered three pairs of hearing aids (the first two pairs were free and the third cost me \$399), cataract surgery, an MRI and physical therapy for my arthritic knee, and chiropractic treatments for my back. This year it offered a \$1,000 flex card to use for hearing, dental, and vision care on top of what is already covered. This year and next it will cover up to \$5,000 in dental treatments.

- Medicare Advantage plans restrict your choices to in-network providers who may have to get your treatment plans approved by plan administrators.

I can understand that people in rural areas might not want to be restricted to narrow networks, but I don't think this is a big issue for people in metropolitan areas with large

networks and excellent providers in many specialties. I chose the Rush network because it has a clinic near me, and I'd likely still go there if I had Original Medicare. If I were to have a serious illness, I'd have access to Rush's nationally ranked physicians and medical center. With Medicare Advantage PPO plans, you also can go out of network by paying more.

I have never had a request for a treatment turned down. Recently I had another batch of chiropractic treatments approved. Medicare Advantage plans are legally obligated to offer the same services as Original Medicare, and many offer more, such as hearing, vision, dental, and fitness benefits.

- It's only when you first sign up for Medicare that Medigap companies cannot deny you coverage regardless of your health status. If you want to switch from Medicare Advantage to Original Medicare down the road, you may not be able to find a Medigap plan that will accept you, or your premium may be hiked.

It's too late for me on that score, but if someday I want to switch to Original Medicare, I'll deal with it then.

- Your providers may leave the network.

I would keep my providers and switch to another insurance plan. In Chicago, there are dozens.

I'm not trying to persuade everyone in Original Medicare to jump ship. There is no one right answer for everyone. Medicare choices should be based on one's health and location. Agents may be helpful, but know that their advice might be biased by their commissions from Medicare Advantage, Medigap, and drug plans.

COMMENT

South Looper Marianne Goss blogs at <https://sincerelymarianne.blogspot.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 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

Safe & Sound Blog by Beth Finke

July 24, 2023



Meet My Role Model, Jason Benetti

October 28, 2023

Many of the things I take on are difficult to do without being able to see. Some are even scary.

I used to keep that to myself, afraid that admitting it would give others license to put me in a disability “box” and assume I have limitations that just aren’t there.

Enter sports broadcaster Jason Benetti, a role model for me since 2018. That’s the year he started doing play-by-play alongside baseball analyst Steve Stone for NBC Sports Chicago.

Broadcaster Jason Benetti was born with cerebral palsy, and when it comes to living above and beyond the pigeon-holes some try to squeeze disabled people into, he’s my guy.

Back in 2021, Peter Sagal, the host of NPR’s “Wait Wait... Don’t Tell Me,” wrote a [terrific piece about Jason for Chicago Magazine](#). The title of the story, “The Storyteller of the White Sox,” is followed by this fabulous tagline: “If you follow the White Sox, you likely know broadcaster Jason Benetti was born with cerebral palsy. But that’s just the start of his story.”

Jason was born 10 weeks early and spent his first three months of life in neonatal intensive care. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a toddler, he grew up in a south suburb of Chicago. Both of his parents are White Sox fans, and for Jason, doing play-by-play for the Sox is a dream job.

And that White Sox gig is by no means the only broadcasting he does. If you’re a sports fan, you might have heard him broadcasting other Major League Baseball games, or doing college football games (he’s doing Kansas-Oklahoma on Fox as I write this) and NCAA basketball, too. Jason is smart and funny and calls the plays so well that I, his number 1 blind fan, can picture them.

In his Chicago Magazine article on Benetti, Peter Sagal paints a pretty good picture in words, too. Here’s how Sagal explains the way Benetti — and many other people with disabilities — have to adjust our own attitudes sometimes. From the article:

Jason knows people stare at him. They always have. Jason knows that his legs are oddly curved, that he walks with a full-body hitch in his step, and that his eyes point in two different directions, making people who don’t know him think he’s congenitally stupid. Jason is far too kind to put it this way, and too well mannered, but his remarkable career

and potentially unlimited success isn’t a triumph over adversity. It’s a message to everybody who ever called him a gimp, to parents who told their children not to stare, to the flight attendant who asked him three times if he could handle the weighty duties of sitting in an exit row.



Peter Sagal’s Chicago Magazine article is not one about Jason “overcoming” a disability or working “despite” his disability, but one about Jason’s work in a highly-competitive field. When it comes to sports broadcasting, Benetti’s achievements speak for themselves.

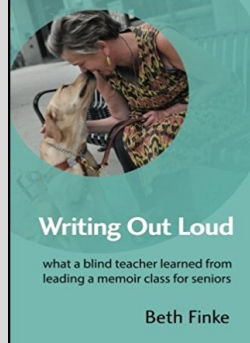
My husband Mike, a big White Sox fan, read the Chicago Magazine story out loud to me when it came out. That way I wouldn’t have to hear it online in my talking computer’s robotic voice. When he got to a part where Sagal writes about Jason’s view of the tendency to make poster children out of people with disabilities, Mike said, “You know, I’ve always felt this way, too, but I never would have been able to articulate it like Jason Benetti does!” From the article:

I ask him about his role as a symbol of hope and triumph to the disabled and abled alike. He remains sensitive about it, especially the suspicion — fading but still lingering — that he got his chances to succeed only so he could make everybody else feel better. “You know those video clips where, say, the high school football team lets its disabled manager suit up and take the field and the other team lets him score a touchdown? I have an aversion to those. It’s like dropping food on a country in a famine. It’s nice and a good thing ... but what’s going to happen after that?”

The part I myself related to the most came towards the end of the article, when friends from his days at Syracuse University chime in. One of them points out that back in college, Jason tripped and fell more than others did:

And we were walking one night home from a party, and he tripped and fell. And none of us cared — it was very normal. It’s not like he was being bullied by anyone...He was trying so hard to not have his disability be a factor that when it did, he ... got angry.” Continued Next Page.

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



Community Development Presentations

Time & Location

Nov 16, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Chicago, 637 S Dearborn St, Chicago, IL 60605, USA

About the event

The South Loop Neighbors will be coordinating a meeting for the community to hear about two proposed projects being proposed. This will be an opportunity for interested community members to hear about the proposed projects as well as ask questions regarding them. Doors open at 6 pm, presentations start at 6:30 PM.

Project #1

Business Name: CMK Development

Location: 739 S Clark Street

Details: Property owner is asking for a zoning change in order to convert a commercial space to a residential property. The height and façade of the building would not change, but 68 units (14 mandated as affordable) would replace three stories of commercial space under the proposal. The commercial space has been empty the past 4 years according to the owners.

Project #2

Business Name: 41 CONGRESS

Location: 41 W Ida B Wells Drive

Details: Property owner would like to add a Tavern and a Hookah Bar as a tenants.



A car rammed through a brick fence and into the side of a building, on Thursday, yesterday, at around Noon. It occurred at the Oaks Senior residences at Clark, Polk, and Park Terrace. No information is immediately available. Later that evening, workers were putting up plywood over broken windows but the car was still there. Possibly waiting for an insurance adjuster to take a look. It narrowly missed a tree.

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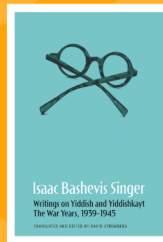


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Isaac Bashevis Singer:
Writings on Yiddish and Yiddishkayt: The War Years, 1939 -1945



November 15
 5:30 pm CT



Isaac Bashevis Singer:
"Writings on Yiddish and Yiddishkayt: The War Years, 1939 -1945"

Join the Yiddish Book Center at the American Writers Museum for a conversation with editor and translator David Stromberg and historian Kenneth Moss about the forthcoming collection *Isaac Bashevis Singer's Writings on*

Yiddish and Yiddishkayt: The War Years, 1939-1945. A reception will be held at 5:30 pm CT and a book signing will follow the discussion. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is recommended to secure a seat.

REGISTER



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

<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>

Writing Out Loud
 what a blind teacher learned from leading a memoir class for seniors
 Beth Finke

A HISTORY LOVER'S GUIDE TO CHICAGO
 GREG BORZO

Native American History in A Council of Dolls by Mona Susan Power (Harper Collins 2023)

One of my favorite dolls when I was a little girl was a tiny "Indian" doll in a brown plastic dress with beads and feathers. My parents bought her in the Wisconsin Dells, where our family went a few times on vacation to see the Stand Rock Indian Ceremony and shop in the colorful stores. I thought then that the dancers and singers were *actors*; I didn't know the Ho-Chunk and Potawatomi tribes actually lived and worked there. I created a charmed and happy life for that doll: playing in the cliffs and the rivers; learning to sew with buckskin; gathering herbal remedies with her grandmother; falling in love with a handsome warrior from an enemy tribe. I didn't imagine her being stolen, raped, murdered or made to walk a thousand miles in the snow. My knowledge of Native American History was hardly broadened by 12 years of Catholic Education. There was no mention of the coerced relocation and re-education of native children in church-run institutions, "that attempted to wipe out Native identity, language and culture [and] continues to manifest in the pain tribal communities face today," according to US Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, who reported well-documented "rampant physical, sexual, and emotional abuse" that took place at the schools and led to the secret burial of "500 children who died while in school custody." My textbooks did not inform me that there could have been 60 million Native inhabitants of North America in 1492, and that 95% of that population died by imported disease or by force after the European invasion. Thank goodness for the Chicago Public Library, who published a list of Native American writers everyone should read. One of them is the glorious Mona Susan Power, whose novel, **A Council of Dolls**, is based loosely on her own fraught Dakota family story. Native

American dolls are not just playthings for little girls. They have significant spiritual significance as exemplars of the Native belief in the life in all things; they are symbols and teachers of history and culture. And like all dolls, they are friends and confidantes. Powers does not shrink from true Native American history, but has a more difficult time being honest about her personal trauma. The narrative begins in Lillian's own Chicago home on Blackhawk Street, where her beloved father presents her with a tiny Black baby-doll, Ethel, who animated to protect Lillian (Wanahca Waste Win...Woman Whose Good Works Bring Flowers) from the ravages of her mercurial and dangerous mother. Powers then focuses on Mae, a renamed, hand-me-down, Shirley Temple doll her own mother, Lillian, had to sacrifice to a dying child but whose spirit comforts the girl during the savage years in boarding school. Finally we meet Winona (first-born daughter), tied to Lillian's grandmother's crib board when she was born—an old hand-crafted doll who survived massacres—but *not* a Christian education. These dolls keep their childish owners safe in the direst of times, and eventually impart to the younger Lillian and her readers a deep knowledge of Indigenous history and the violent and demeaning erasure of that history by Indian schools. Bleak as these stories are, the younger Lillian (Powers) is now a middle-aged author who survives her trauma and lives to tell her tales. Read them and share in the salvation.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park / November, 2023

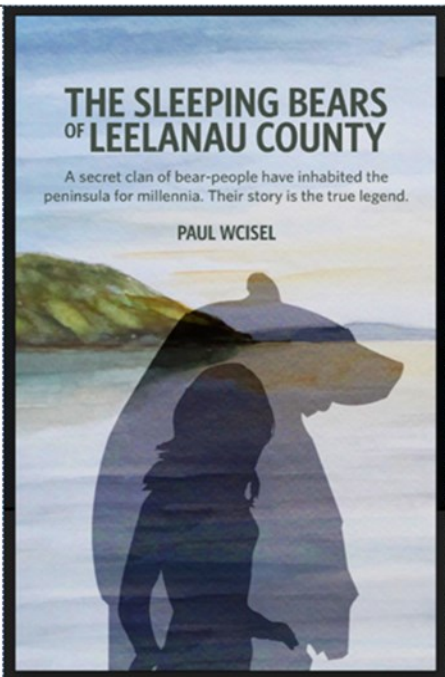


A new novel by local author, Paul Wcisel (paulwcisel.com)

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.

Pick up a copy at Sandmeyer's Bookstore today.



Time Without Dates An Artist's Memoir

by Mel Theobald



In this candid memoir, the author pays tribute to the mentors and events that inspired him and lays bare the experiences that shaped him as an artist. The Art Institute of Chicago plays a central role in the years he spent as a student, museum conservator, and alumni leader. His struggles with his parents' archaic ideals and his dreams give rise to a thoroughly engaging association with an elite art community.

He became a university professor and graphic designer before receiving an invitation to Russia in 1990. This book is a prelude to *Inside the Enigma*, an intricate account of that transformative year, and defines the complexity of his foray into the inner workings of an art museum, university and the people who represent the heart and soul of his creativity. Art, science and religion are the cornerstones of his belief that creativity, technology and faith in nature will lead man to a higher consciousness.

For more details about the author, go to: www.theobaldart.com

Hardcover, 358 pages, \$30

For ordering information, email: theobaldart@gmail.com

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

Mikado Pintado

October 20, 2023



At the Convent of the Sacred Heart in 1958, Mother Cleary announced at the weekly school assembly the name of the annual school play. She was uncharacteristically gleeful. "Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado* will be this year's play. We'll start auditions next week. The entire school will take part. It will be a real pageant!"

The "convent" was a community of nuns and a Catholic girls' school for grades five through twelve in a pastoral Chicago suburb. The nun's surnames Riley, Doyle, O'Brien, and McCarthy would lead outsiders to think the order of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary has its roots in Ireland. Not so. The order originated in France. Wealthy Irish families paid to have their well-educated daughters live and teach as "Madams" of the Sacred Heart, as they were known colloquially.

On hearing the news of *The Mikado*, we in the lower grades looked at each other with a shrugged Huh? The high schoolers cheered. Full of musicians, music lovers, budding drama queens, or future dramatists, the upper grades knew their Gilbert & Sullivan.

Gilbert & Sullivan wrote their 1885 comic opera as a satire on Victorian mores, culture, and government. The plot of *The Mikado* is the operatic old stand-by of an adolescent boy and girl trapped in forbidden love. The forbidden in this opera is a law against flirting. Some like to think Gilbert & Sullivan used the ridiculous plot to mock England's law against homosexuality.

The late 1880s British society, the Victorian era, is known for its sexual prudishness. As an eighth-grader in the 1950s, I doubt I knew the word "Victorian" was synonymous with hypocritical sexual repression. Do you suppose those crafty Sacred Heart nuns were trying to get some subliminal point across to their mostly virginal students? Those in the know at school aroused curious excitement about the play, the music, the staging, and the costumes. Oh, the costumes. The Mikado is a fake Japanese story, and the buzz about the songs, the kimonos, the make-up, and those hairdos filled my dreams with whirling color.

In Catholic schools, everyone sings in the choir throughout the year's many feast days. When it came to my turn to audition, I had high hopes of landing a dramatic singing part. I had no idea I couldn't carry a tune. My seventh-grade sister and I were called together to audition with Mother Cleary.

"Oh, girls, we have the perfect parts for you! You will be dressed as mackerels and stand as sentries on either side of the stage for the entire play! Isn't that exciting? You'll be visible the whole time!"

"Mackerels? You mean fish?" I asked.

"Yes, yes, yes! Don't worry; you aren't required to attend all the rehearsals—just the last few. Mother O'Brien will contact you about your costumes."

"I won't be singing?"

"Oh no, dear. That isn't a part for you."

"Thank you, Mother." No matter how dispirited I felt, I knew manners were required. Pretending to be grateful was more virtuous than expressing true feelings.

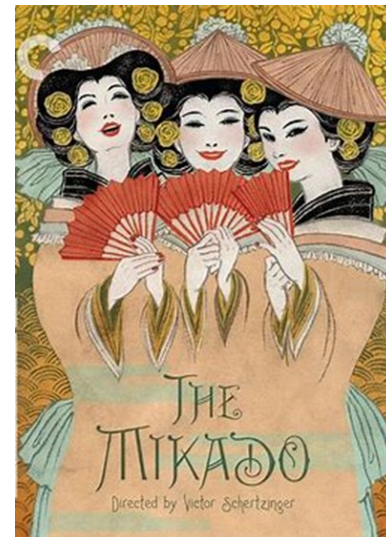
Our costumes were colorful green felt tunics with blue and grey scales stitched in rows around the entire body. A fin and fishtail were sewn to the back, not that it mattered since only the front was visible on stage. I loved my costume. Mother O'Brien fitted it just right. But the fish head? It was a gigantic papier-mâché exaggeration of a mackerel head with slits for us to look out. We had to wiggle into our heads in the wings and be led to our spots at each edge of the stage. The smell of fresh white paste never dissipated inside the mackerel head.

We held silver staffs fastened to oversized cardboard hatchets. The mackerels were also executioners.

As executioner mackerels, we stood sentry throughout the play — a constant reminder to the audience that *The Mikado* is about death. Self-decapitation, being buried alive, and boiling in oil are all described in *The Mikado* as humorous ways to die if caught flirting. Death is funny.

I suppose for nuns cloistered in their habits, satire about death allowed them a fun escape from the reality of staring at a bleeding dead man on the cross at daily matins. My thoughts have turned to death every day before and since *The Mikado* because of that same bleeding dead man on the cross. But the play permitted me to laugh at death, and myself, for that matter.

As for Gilbert & Sullivan, I feel nauseous whenever I hear *The Mikado*'s "Pretty Little Maidens." I suffer from a subconscious sixty-five-year-old humiliation that I buried while standing on that stage for hours, holding a weapon meant to decapitate.



Beth Finke—continued from previous page

The angry part? I'm afraid that's the part I could especially relate to. When coming back home after a walk with my Seeing Eye dog, I sometimes grope for a while before finding the door handle to get back inside. When crossing the streets here, we aren't always exactly in the middle of the crosswalk. I know where the local mailbox is, but I don't always find the slot to put the letters in right away.

I'm fine with making mistakes like that...unless someone sees me do them. Then I get flustered, worried how they're judging me, frustrated. I read that last excerpt over again and see that my role model's old college friend used past tense when mentioning Jason's reaction: he got angry. That implies he doesn't get that way anymore. Time for me to make that change, too.

I hope you'll read Peter Sagal's 2021 piece in Chicago Magazine. But if you want a quick take on Jason Benetti, check out this children's book I wrote about him for an [Itty-Bitty Bio](#) series that [Cherry Lake Publishing Group](#), an educational and children's book publisher based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, published this year.

Cherry Lake has been publishing books for first graders for years, but this year they decided to seek out published authors who have disabilities to write about a role model of theirs who also has a disability. As one of the selected writers, of course I singled out Jason Benetti as my role model.

Earlier this year the publisher set up a Zoom meeting so I could do an online interview with Jason to learn more about him, and a month ago I had the wonderful privilege of meeting Jason Benetti face to face at a White Sox Charities luncheon at White Sox Park. I'll leave you here with a Jason Benetti quote I especially like and used for his Itty Bitty Bio: "I think it's good that people are all different from each other. That way the world is ever changing, more open minded, and ever beautiful."



Born Again, a righteous consignment parlor nestled in the heart of Chicago's historic Printer's Row neighborhood, is on a mission to transcend the religion of retail. Not only do we love to curate the finest gently used modern, vintage, and novelty merchandise with you in mind, we revel in creating a customized, guilt-free, and fairly priced experience that transforms the consignment scene.



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Editor's Letter: November, 2023

October 30, 2023 by [Brian Hiegelke](#)

This issue's feature story about the past and present of the Fine Arts Building is, by far, the longest we've ever published. It's divided into chapters, which makes it easier to read. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

The undertaking came about, as all great stories do, over cocktails. I'd run into Keir Graff a few months back at former Newcity managing editor Frank Sennett's book-release party for his latest thriller, "Shadow State." Keir, like Frank, landed in Chicago the old-fashioned way, that is, via Missoula, Montana. (Though not on horseback.) And, like Frank, he earned his Newcity bona fides in the nineties writing about drinking.

Catching up over drinks at Frank's party, I learned that Keir, who'd left his job as an editor at Booklist to write full-time, had taken an office in the Fine Arts Building, which is a modest walk from Newcity HQ. I suggested we meet up and have a cocktail sometime, and a month or two later, there we were, drinking Perfect Manhattans at the bar in the lobby of the Palmer House.

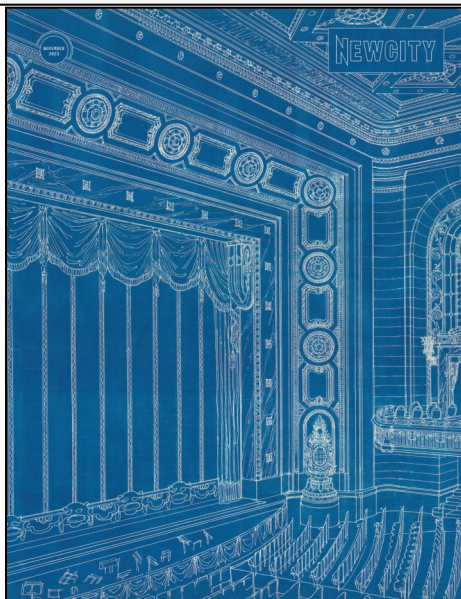
As you might guess, Keir and I share an appreciation for fine vintage things, like majestic hotels, classic cocktails and historic buildings like the Fine Arts. Eager to bring Keir back into the fold of Newcity contributors, I suggested an in-depth story about the Fine Arts, and cited Joseph Mitchell's McSorley's stories from the New Yorker, circa 1940, as inspiration. At least I think that's how it went down. Cocktails, you know.

And so, a couple of seasons and nearly twenty-five thousand words later, here we are. Keir took the idea that day and delivered a story far more detailed, and far more interesting, than I could have hoped for.

Like so many of my generation, my first and most consistent exposure to the Fine Arts Building was seeing foreign films in its movie theaters. I specifically remember being awed by Jean Renoir's "French Cancan." But there was more to come: my then-very-young daughter took ballet lessons in one of the studios, and much later, as a young adult, she waited tables in the restaurant on the main floor. (She has stories, too.)

Speaking of the restaurant, I hope they bring in a great, arts-friendly operation soon. It's a one-of-a-kind location. Then Keir and I can meet for drinks there and maybe conjure up a story about the Palmer House. Oh, the stories that place holds...

—BRIAN HIEGGELKE



An original architectural plan from the Fine Arts' Studebaker Theater. Courtesy the Fine Arts Building. | Cover Design: Dan Streeting

Look for Newcity's November 2023 print edition at over 300 Chicago-area locations this week or subscribe to the print edition at [Newcityshop.com](#).

IN THIS ISSUE

Enduring Art

The Fine Arts Building is ready for its next act

AND

Poetry

"VACUNA I"

A new poem by Natasha Mijares

And so much more...

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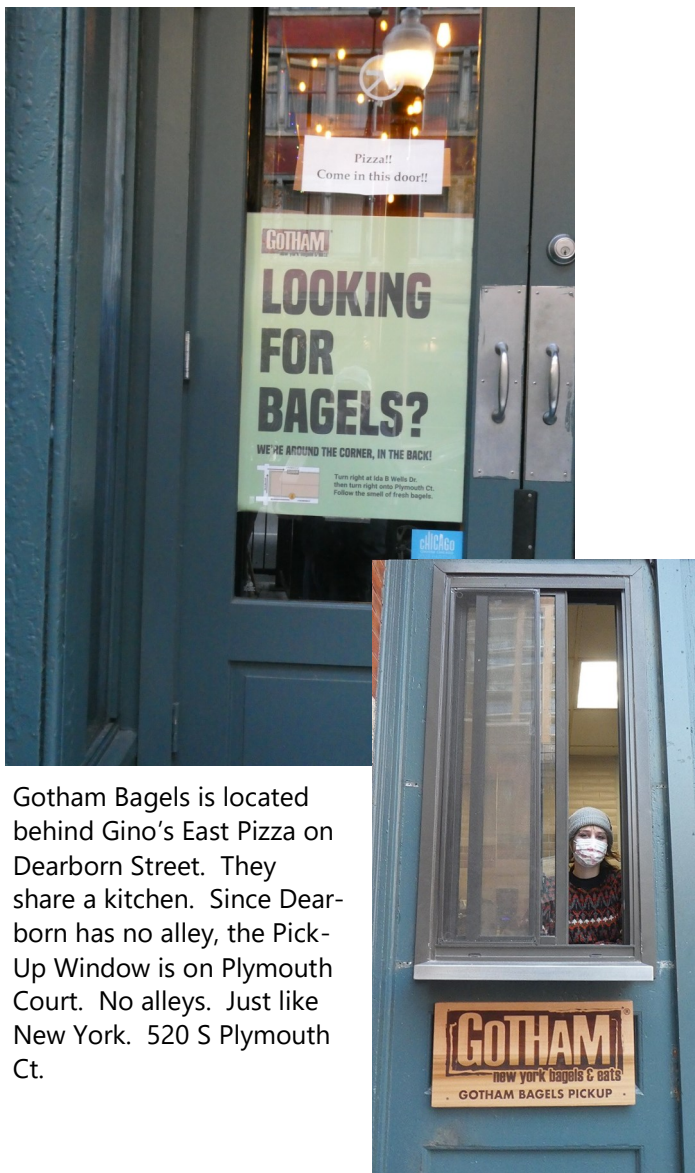
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NEWCITY [newcity.com](#)



Gotham Bagels is located behind Gino's East Pizza on Dearborn Street. They share a kitchen. Since Dearborn has no alley, the Pick-Up Window is on Plymouth Court. No alleys. Just like New York. 520 S Plymouth Ct.

Chicago Newcomers Assistance Network

DONATE COATS, BOOTS, & COLD WEATHER GEAR

Please donate new or gently used/clean coats, boots, hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters, & sweatshirts to help migrant asylum seekers keep warm during their first winter.

www.chicagonewcomers.org

Drop off locations/time: Sundays, 1133 S Wabash, 11am to 1pm
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The residential development is moving ahead as of right

October 27, 2023, 7:00AM Lukas Kugler

A foundation permit has been issued for a residential development at 1630 S. Wabash. Located across from Fred Anderson Park, the project site is currently vacant and backs up to the CTA L tracks. CMK Development is leading the project.

Designed by Pappageorge Haymes Partners, the new development is reported to be a 12-story residential tower with 149 residential units. The first two floors will have 105 parking spaces with the residential lobby and associated uses expected on the ground floor. Due to the as-of-right nature of the project, renderings and floor plans have not been made public.

With Clark Construction Group serving as the general contractor, the issued permit will allow for construction to begin on the foundations and partial superstructure up to the top of the second floor. A piles permit has already been issued and a full building permit is undergoing the review process.

https://chicago.urbanize.city/post/foundation-permit-issued-1630-s-wabash?utm_source=Urbanize+Newsletter&utm_campaign=2ef686ba2b-news-chicago-daily-2023-10-27&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f2c8779a36-2ef686ba2b-1997313

URBANIZE

Second Presbyterian Church hosts its annual Winter Coat Drive during the months of November through February.

Donations of gently used or new winter coats, hats, gloves and sweaters are accepted and distributed to our Lunch Bag Program and neighbors in need.



November 1, 2023—February 29, 2024.
Donations are received **Tuesdays -Fridays, 11am-1pm**



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Tuesday, 11/21 @ 7pm

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We're expecting a smaller crowd due to the holiday week. Join us for a cozy conversation about 2024.

Order your own refreshments.

RSVP here: [IDC November RSVP](#)

We will make a reservation for our group.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead



OBOC Keynote Event: Tommy Orange, Author of There There

One Book One Chicago

Nov 15th | 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Harold Washington Library Center

Join us for a keynote event featuring Tommy Orange, author of *There There*, in conversation on his book, life and future work.

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Part-time union strike continues into weekend as community leaders rally with instructors

By [Cierra Lemott](#), [Peyton Reich](#), [Christalyn Barker](#), and [Kaelah Serrano](#)



Surrounded by a cast of union heavy hitters, Columbia's part-time faculty union marched and picketed on the fifth day of its strike Friday, Nov. 3.

Representatives from the Illinois Federation of Teachers, The American Federation of Teachers and the Chicago Teachers Union joined the Columbia Faculty Union for a press conference outside of 600 S. Michigan Ave. Union members interviewed each other on video and posed for pictures.

The Columbia Faculty Union, which represents 584 part-time instructors, is a local branch of the IFT and AFT, state and national labor organizations.

"When we stand together, we fight for the quality of higher education," said John Miller, vice president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers. "We fight for our students."

Meanwhile, in an [update](#) published on the college's website, President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim said if the strike continues past this week, academic departments will reach out to students and offer alternate forms of instruction, tutoring and other activities.

Columbia is a private college with a fall enrollment of about 6,500.

"Every academic semester is designed to accommodate the loss of some instruction – as can occur in the case of an extended weather emergency or faculty or student illness – without compromising the achievement of course learning outcomes," Kim said in the update

THE COLUMBIA
CHRONICLE

For more click here

<https://columbiachronicle.com/part-time-union-strike-continues-into-weekend-as-community-leaders-rally-with-instructors>

McCormick Place Lakeside Center Will Close Blinds Every Night To Protect Migrating Birds

The building owners are exploring other ways to protect birds, including installing bird-safe film and adding more shades.

by [Kayleigh Padar](#) November 1, 2023

DOWNTOWN — Leaders at McCormick Place Lakeside Center plan to close the blinds every night to prevent bird collisions [following increased criticism from advocates after 1,000 birds](#) died from crashing into the building during one day in October.



Lakeside Center

More than 10,000 people signed a [petition](#) asking for the lights to be turned off every night at McCormick Place Lakeside Center, 2301 S. Jean Baptiste Point DuSable Lake Shore Drive. The petition was delivered to the leadership team at Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, which owns the building, during its monthly board meeting Monday.

Instead of turning the lights off when the building is occupied, leaders at Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority plan to consistently close the blinds and are considering other bird-safety adjustments, according to a news release.

"We've heard from people monitoring for birds in the area that they've been following through on drawing the shades," said Annette Price, director of Chicago Bird Collision Monitors. "That's a really positive thing, and we're so glad. The leadership team has expressed to us that they're taking this very seriously."

To further protect birds, leaders are considering installing bird-safe film and barriers on the outside of the glass as well as adding additional decals inside windows, more shades and drapery inside and motorized controls for existing shades, according to the news release.

These changes would make the windows more visible to birds and make it easier for the building's occupants to draw the shades each night.

"In the long term, Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority is exploring plans to renovate Lakeside Center," according to the owners. "One of the purposes of the renovations is to make Lakeside Center more sustainable and environmentally friendly, including new bird-friendly options for the building."



For more click author

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/11/01/mccormick-place-lakeside-center-will-close-blinds-every-night-to-protect-migrating-birds/>

<https://blockclubchicago.org/>



TWO YEARS AGO

The Grail Café will closed Tuesday, November 16th, 2021. It opened January 2020. It did not qualify for PPP funds because you had to have had an income tax statement from the previous year. A cruel reality for newly opened businesses. The two store fronts are still for sale.



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South Loop T.J. Maxx To Close Next Year

The discount clothing store — one of The Maxwell's first tenants — will close by Jan. 6.

by [Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) October 31, 2023



The South Loop T.J. Maxx location is set to close early next year. Credit: Provided.

SOUTH LOOP — Fans of the South Loop T.J. Maxx better get their shopping in while they can: The location will be closing after the holidays, a spokesperson confirmed Monday.

The store, 1008 S. Canal St., is set to close by Jan. 6. The shop is one of several in [The Maxwell](#), a collection of retail stores that include Dick's Sporting Goods, Nordstrom and Burlington.

The discount clothing retailer [announced last week](#) it would close a Brooklyn, New York store in early 2024. Earlier this month, the company [closed a location in St. Paul, Minnesota](#). There are more than 1,300 T.J. Maxx stores nationwide, according to an August earnings [press release](#). Click to read the rest of the story.



https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/10/31/south-loop-t-j-maxx-to-close-next-year/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=e4efebf8b3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_10_31+Morning+List+1&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_cbdb1cc15c-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=e4efebf8b3&mc_eid=e0677f46e4

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COMEDY
8 PM



IN THE SPEAKEASY



Thursdays

Bingo with
Betty

Last Wednesday of the month



Philip Watson of the group Jesus Chicago donates clothes and shoes to asylum seekers amid the cold temperatures outside the Chicago Police Department's 2nd District station in Fuller Park on Oct. 30, 2023. Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

Migrants Sleep Outside In Frigid Temps As City Council Squabbles About What To Do Next

Volunteers say they're struggling with no clear guidance from the city, and migrants say they're living a "nightmare." When asked about the status of his winterized tent camp plan, Mayor Brandon Johnson said, "Winter is not here yet."

by [Madison Savedra](#), [Alex V. Hernandez](#), [Ariel Parrella-Aureli](#), [Colin Boyle](#) and [Quinn Myers](#) November 2, 2023 Updated November 3, 2023

CHICAGO — Hundreds of migrants are still sleeping in tents outside as Chicago's weather dips below freezing — while city leaders continue to spar over how to tackle a humanitarian crisis 14 months in the making.

During a City Council meeting Wednesday, alderpeople couldn't unite behind [a plan to buy a vacant Far South Side lot for \\$1](#) to turn it into a migrant encampment capable of holding as many as 1,500 migrants in winterized tents. Allies of Mayor Brandon Johnson, who proposed the tent camps in early September, delayed a vote on buying 6.5 acres at 115th and Halsted streets in Roseland. Many alderpeople said they would vote no in solidarity with Ald. Ronnie Mosley (21st), whose ward includes the site and who opposes the tent camp.

It is the latest squabble among City Council members on how to best care for migrants in Chicago, which has received more than 20,000 people since August 2022. Alderpeople implored the Mayor's Office to come up with a plan, made jabs at opponents and lamented a lack of cooperation.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people, families and children inside and outside police stations were forced to bundle up against the elements this week as the city got its first snow of the season.

- The city has partnered with Instituto del Progreso Latino to create [an Amazon wishlist](#) where people can buy supplies for migrants.

- Anyone who wants to donate extra furniture can [fill out a form requesting Chicago Furniture Bank pick it up](#).

Chicago Newcomers Assistance Network

Supporting Asylum Seekers at District 1 Police Station (South Loop)

See the website for an overview of how to help: [ChicagoNewcomers.org](https://chicagonewcomers.org)

Join this Facebook group to follow more closely: [Facebook.com/groups/d1nan](https://facebook.com/groups/d1nan)

Make a tax deductible donation via our fiscal sponsor [Life Quilt Foundation](#)

Purchase high-priority items off this [Amazon Wish List](#) (set up to be delivered directly to volunteers, not to your address)

You can find [volunteer](#) and [donation](#) information on the city's website.

- Read more: [How To Help Migrants In Chicago As Winter Approaches](#)

Migrants who spoke to Block Club said they have jackets, gloves, hats and more — thanks to donations — but it wasn't enough to keep them warm. And volunteers and mutual aid groups who've been on the front lines around the clock to provide essentials worry their work helping migrants is unsustainable without coordination from the city or help from other levels of government.

Gabriele Strohschen, a former DePaul University professor who lives in Pilsen, said there's been an outpouring of support from neighbors toward migrants at the local police station, but she worries the city is relying too much on the kindness of neighbors.

"We were not proactive as a city, and so we're still putting out fires here and there," Strohschen said. "Maybe the city is doing more than we think, but there has been very little transparency of what they're really doing and planning."

Madison Savedra discusses the city's tent encampment plan:

While migrants at one police station may have ample donated clothes or over-the-counter medications, other stations might not have the same network of mutual aid, Strohschen said.

"The city can't just rely on the fact that we will empty our closets or go to Costco and buy new coats," she said.

"There's so many church and individual efforts that are happening, but one hand doesn't know what the other is doing. So, again, you have gaps in service provision."

About 11,600 are living in 24 city-run shelters as of Wednesday — up from 6,600 on Aug. 31.

For the rest of the story click author

https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/11/02/migrants-are-sleeping-outside-in-the-freezing-cold-can-chicago-agree-on-a-plan-to-care-for-them/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=7b3b8e5d75-



Theatre. . . . In the South Loop

Our Town

by Thornton Wilder

November 8-12

"It's not just a play about a small town. It's...what Thornton Wilder intended it to be. It's a play about our planet, and about ourselves."-- Tappan Wilder, Thornton Wilder's nephew and literary executor. Can you ever really appreciate something until you lose it? This question and others are explored on the stage of life, as the Stage Manager guides us through the journey of two young lovers in the fictional town of Groves Corners near the beginning of the last century. A Pulitzer Prize winner and Thornton Wilder's most frequently performed play, *Our Town* continues to be produced throughout the world.

Tickets must be purchased for this performance. Purchase tickets [here](#).

Time:

7:30 - 9:30pm

Location:

Miller Studio Theatre | Auditorium Building, room 980

Tickets must be purchased for this performance. Purchase tickets [here](#).



Roosevelt University

O'Malley Theatre, 431 S Wabash, Chicago



ON THE TOWN

Directed by Amy Toruno
Music Directed by Dr. John E Williams
Choreographed by Tommy Rivera-Vega

Music by Leonard Bernstein
Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden & Adolph Green
Based on the idea by Jerome Robbins

ON THE TOWN is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC

This energetic wartime musical about three sailors on a 24-hour leave in New York City. As directed by Amy Toruno this production will also investigate diversity within the branches of the military, dispelling the notion of an all-white fighting force during the World Wars of the 20th century.

PERFORMANCE DATES

Thursday, November 9th - 7:30PM (Preview)
 Friday, November 10th - 7:30PM (Opening)
 Saturday, November 11th - 2:00 PM and 7:30PM
 Wednesday, November 15th - 7:30 PM
 Thursday, November 16th - 7:30 PM
 Friday, November 17th - 7:30 PM
 Saturday, November 18th - 2:00 PM

Columbia College

The Getz Theatre Center
 72 E 11th Street, Chicago



The live theatrical adaptation of "Jim Henson's Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas" is making its Chicago debut this holiday season at the Studebaker Theater! Packed with puppets created by **Jim Henson's Creature Shop**, *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* is a heartwarming celebration of the true spirit of the holidays.



[BUY TICKETS](#)



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Downtown Police District Council Immobilized As Mayor's Office Fails To Fill Vacancy

A spokesperson for Mayor Brandon Johnson didn't say why the mayor rejected the candidate after four months of deliberation.

by [Melody Mercado](#) November 7, 2023

DOWNTOWN — The Mayor's Office shot down a candidate for a Downtown police district council after four months of deliberation — rendering the council useless.

The Central (1st) Police District Council only has two of its three spots filled, and one council member is on leave. That means the remaining council member can't host meetings because they can't form a quorum.

Police district councils [were created in 2021 after years of community organizing for more civilian oversight](#). Members were elected to their positions earlier this year and will serve four-year terms.

Some district councils had slews of candidates competing for the three open seats, while others didn't have enough. The Central (1st) District Council, which oversees Downtown, only had two candidates, Sarah Kammerer and Jamie Brown, so they started their terms with a vacancy on their board.

To fill the vacancy, Brown and Kammerer followed the guidelines outlined in the municipal code by collecting applications and identifying three qualified candidates for the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability. In July, that group recommended one person from that list — Marcel Bright — to Mayor Brandon Johnson.

Johnson's administration sat with the recommendation for four months before ultimately rejecting Bright's application last week.

[Bright, a former journalist, chief of staff to Ald. Pat Dowell \(3rd\), Chicago police officer and 2018 candidate for Cook County Commissioner 4th District](#), said he wasn't told why he didn't make the cut.

"It was a relatively short conversation. ... I just wanted an explanation as to why. Was there something in my background or was there a criteria that wasn't met?" Bright said.

Council candidates must live in the district and cannot have been a member of the Chicago Police Department, Independent Police Review Authority, Civilian Office of Police Accountability or the Police Board for at least three years before they assume office. Bright worked with the Police Department 2001-2008 as a spokesperson and in other positions, [according to South Side Weekly's Jim Daley](#).

A spokesperson for the Mayor's Office did not say why Johnson rejected the commission's recommendation, instead saying "there is no requirement for the mayor to appoint the recommended candidate."



Mayor Brandon Johnson speaks after Larry Snelling was unanimously confirmed as Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department by City Council on Sept. 27, 2023. Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

"The Mayor's Office has provided correspondence to the CCPSA requesting the submission of an alternative recommendation from the remaining two recommendations provided to them by the District Council Members," a spokesperson said in a statement.

Bright's rejection has left the Central District Council in a precarious position, Brown said. With Kammerer on long-term medical leave starting this week, the council will not have the quorum needed to hold the required monthly public meeting.

"I honestly have no idea what's next. That's been the most frustrating part," Brown said.

As of Monday evening, Brown had not heard from city officials about next steps, she said. The council is supposed to have a meeting 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Harold Washington Library, which Brown said she will still host in an unofficial capacity.

"It won't be an official business meeting. I won't be able to approve minutes, it can't be on the record. ... The ordinance requires we do one meeting a month. So we just won't have a November meeting log," Brown said.

Commission President Anthony Driver did not respond to a request for comment on the unfolding situation.

Brown and Bright said they believed Johnson's rejection of the commission's recommendation defeats the purpose of the commission being an "independent body."

"If the mayor is going to choose someone, that defeats the purpose of the whole [Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability] and the spirit of it because it's supposed to be an independent situation," Brown said.

"You'd think if there was going to be a rejection it would come sooner, not for my benefit but for the commission and the council's benefit, so they could start the process over, find someone and fill that position so

For the rest of the story, click here.

[https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/11/07/central-1st-police-district-council-immobilized-as-mayors-office-fails-to-fill-vacancy/?](https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/11/07/central-1st-police-district-council-immobilized-as-mayors-office-fails-to-fill-vacancy/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Why+Your+Fall+Allergies+Are+So+Bad+This+Year+%F0%9F%A4%A7&utm_campaign=Wednesday%2C+Nov++8%2C+2023+Morning+List)

[utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Why+Your+Fall+Allergies+Are+So+Bad+This+Year+%F0%9F%A4%A7&utm_campaign=Wednesday%2C+Nov++8%2C+2023+Morning+List](https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/11/07/central-1st-police-district-council-immobilized-as-mayors-office-fails-to-fill-vacancy/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Why+Your+Fall+Allergies+Are+So+Bad+This+Year+%F0%9F%A4%A7&utm_campaign=Wednesday%2C+Nov++8%2C+2023+Morning+List)



South Loop's Kido Celebrates 5th Anniversary With An Eye On Expansion



Keewa Nurullah, owner of the kids boutique Kido, wants to open more stores and develop a bigger product line.

by [Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) November 2, 2023

SOUTH LOOP — The past five years have been a whirlwind for Keewa Nurullah, so the entrepreneur behind the South Loop kids boutique [Kido](#) is quietly reflecting as she celebrates her business anniversary and looks to the future.

Kido, 1137 S. Delano Ct., marks five years in business this week. The shop that sells clothes, toys, books and more for babies, toddlers and kids has gained a loyal following by centering on children of color, children with disabilities and non-traditional families.

The shop has drawn parents and families for meetups, workshops, pop-ups, music shows and even hair braiding events. In recent years, Nurullah and Kido also have organized major community events, like a pro-choice family march after Roe v. Wade was struck down and collaborating with queer dance party Slo 'Mo [to host the Queer Fam Pride Jam](#).

Nurullah said producing events can be difficult, but the outpouring of love and support from customers keeps her going. Now, as she looks to the next five years, she hopes to expand Kido's footprint and impact across the country — and the world.

"My biggest fantasy is to have a Kido in every region of the country. One on the west coast, one in New York. Maybe one in the south," Nurullah said. [CLICK AUTHOR TO READ](#)

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/11/02/south-loops-kido-celebrates-milestone-anniversary-with-an-eye-on-expansion/>



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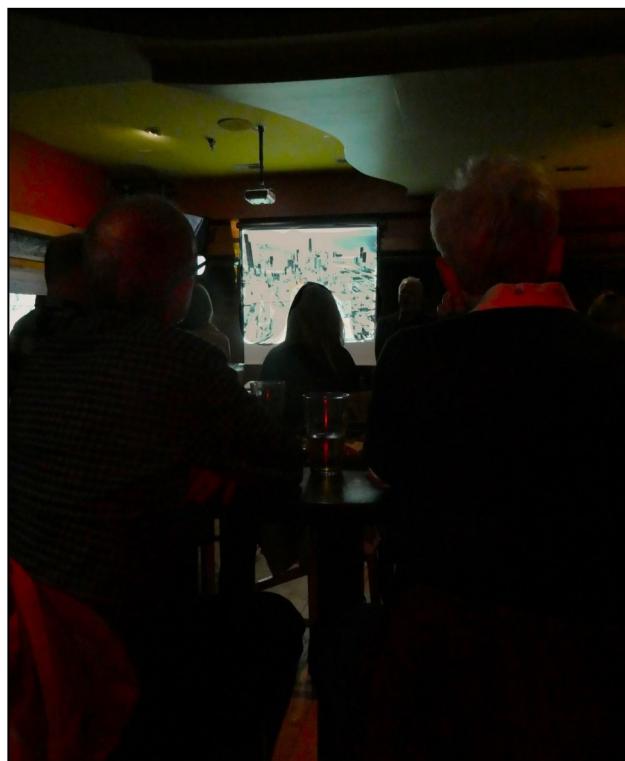
Come Shop With Us!



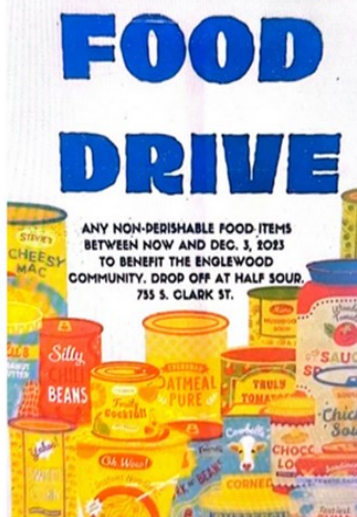
2nd Presbyterian Church, 1936 S Michigan Ave



Dennis McClendon of South Loop Neighbors provided a lively visual presentation on the History of the South Loop. Dennis quipped that he is qualified because he's old and he has a lot of pictures. In the hour long slide presentation, he kept us moving in a historical perspective of architectural gems, those that are still standing and many that have been replaced. He tied together the architecture; the straightening of the Chicago River; the Railroad stations; the Vice District; the rise and fall of the Prairie Avenue District to only rise again; the creation of Dearborn Park and revitalization of Printers Row. That empty chair by-the-way is your editor's chair.



The standing room only crowd and those who arrived early enough to find tables and chairs kept the wait staff at Bar Louie busy with food and drink orders flowing. Despite the too small room for the crowd, most folks seem to enjoy the combo plate: History/ food and drink.



Half Sour is hosting a food drive through December 3rd

The restaurant is located at 755 S Clark. Non-perishable items are being collected to benefit the Englewood Community of Chicago. Drop off is located inside.

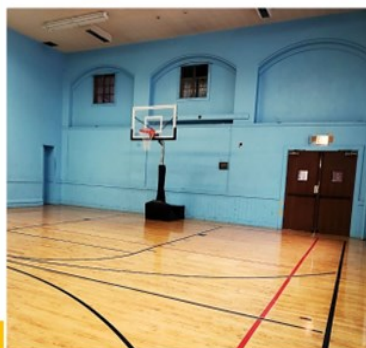
Heartfelt Request for canned Tuna, Salmon, or Spam

Share some foods you found comforting and nourishing as a child, or still do to this day!



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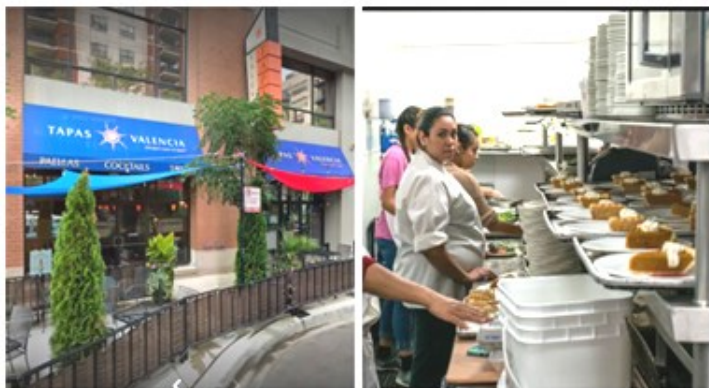


Fellowship Hall

We have Rental Spaces Available!

We have a variety of spaces within our church buildings, including the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, a Gymnasium, and several meeting rooms, that may be rented for your special event or on a reoccurring basis!

2ndPresbyterian.org
1936 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60616



South Loop's Tapas Valencia Offers Thanksgiving Meal To Those In Need

More than 3,000 meals will be given away Nov. 23 at the restaurant. "We have to help one another," owner Hossein Jamali said. by [Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) 4 hours ago

South Loop's Tapas Valencia and sister restaurant Meson Sabina are giving away over 3,000 meals this Thanksgiving. Credit: Provided.

SOUTH LOOP — Tapas Valencia is giving back for the holidays with a Thanksgiving meal giveaway.

More than 3,000 meals will be given away Nov. 23 at the restaurant, 1530 S. State St. People can reserve a meal by calling Tapas Valencia at 312-842-4444 anytime before this Thursday.

Sister restaurant Meson Sabika will also hand out meals on the day of the holiday at their Naperville location at 1025 Aurora Ave.

Longtime Meson Sabika manager Josue Cuatlatuato has helped with the meal giveaways since joining the staff 16 years ago. News of the event tends to spread pretty quickly, with reservations filling up, he said. They've even run out of room on the waiting list, which is three pages, he said.

"We don't ask for any information. We just spread the word with different organizations, different churches, different food pantries and let them know that as soon as you call us, make a reservation," Cuatlatuato said.

https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/11/10/tapas-valencia-south-loop-restaurant-hosts-thanksgiving-giveaway/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content



<https://blockclubchicago.org/>



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Noise cameras would help ticket downtown drivers with loud mufflers under proposed city ordinance

Backers of the pilot hope to address the negative health effects associated

with loud noises — high blood pressure, depression and even heart attacks. Critics of the proposal say the cameras will target people who can't afford car repairs and motorcyclists — and are really a cash grab by politicians.

By [David Struett](#)

Nov 1, 2023, 4:51pm CDT



Chicago may soon deploy automated cameras to ticket drivers with loud mufflers.

Under a proposed ordinance, cameras equipped with microphones would be placed in the downtown area so tickets could be sent to violators, possibly as soon as the New Year.

The devices, similar to speed cameras, would be attached to light poles. Backers of the proposed pilot program hope to address the negative health effects associated with loud noises: high blood pressure, depression and even heart attacks.

Critics of the proposal say the cameras will target people who can't afford car repairs — and are really a cash grab by politicians.

“This is basically the next red-light camera,” said Josh Witkowski, legislative coordinator for the motorcyclist advocacy group ABATE of Illinois. The cameras would also unfairly target motorcyclists because of the nature of those vehicles, he said.

Plus, the automated system is too easily abused, Witkowski said, as the history of red-light cameras has shown.

“This is basically the next red-light camera,” said Josh Witkowski, legislative coordinator for the motorcyclist advocacy group ABATE of Illinois. The cameras would also unfairly target motorcyclists because of the nature of those vehicles, he said.

Plus, the automated system is too easily abused, Witkowski said, as the history of red-light cameras has shown.

First-time violators would get a warning in the mail, according to the proposal. Then they'd face a fine under the current noise ordinance law. Cameras for the pilot will be limited to the downtown area, bound by North Avenue, Ashland Avenue, Interstate 55 and Lake Michigan.

Despite the ordinance, the pilot program faces some hurdles. The ordinance is under legal review in the Public Safety Committee, and it still needs a public hearing.

https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2023/11/1/23941866/automated-muffler-noise-enforcement-pilot-cameras?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11223%20Morning%20Edition&utm_content=11223%20Morning%20Edition+CID_e14b1d811b8bbe3ca4cf8eb62b3f516d&utm_source=cst_campaign_monitor&utm_term=Noise%20cameras%20would%20help%20ticket%20downtown%20drivers%20with%20loud%20mufflers%20under%20proposed%20city%20ordinance&tpcc=11223%20Morning%20Edition



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

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

Next CAPS Meeting 2024

To Be Announced
Beat 123

caps.001district@chicagopolice.org



Police Blotter



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

10/20/2023 3:40pm 1400 S Wabash Ave
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No weapon Beat 131

10/15/2023 10:30am 1200 S Michigan Av
AGGRAVATED BATTERY Sidewalk Beat 131

10/11/2023 3:46am 1200 S Wabash Ave
ARMED ROBBERY Grocery Store Beat 131

10/6/2023 8:30pm 900 S Michigan Ave
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Handgun Beat 123

10/21/2023 1100 S State St
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Knife Restaurant Beat 123

10/24/2023 1pm 600 S Wabash
AGGRAVATED ROBBERY Non-res.Parking lot Beat 123

10/23/2023 6:20pm 600 S State
AGGRAVATED BATTERY of a Senior Citizen Red Line platform Beat 123

10/8/2023 3:40am 500 S Clark
AGGRAVATED BATTERY Sidewalk Beat 123

10/11/2023 10:31AM 1100 S Clark
AGGRAVATED CARJACKING Target Beat 123

10/17/2023 9am 20 E 11th
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 123

10/14/2023 4:30pm 700 S Wabash Ave
AUTO THEFT Street Beat 123

10/11/2023 12:30PM Balbo and Wabash
AUTO THEFT Non-res. Parking Garage Beat 123

10/13/2023 6PM 600 S Wabash Ave
AUTO THEFT Non-res. Parking Beat 123

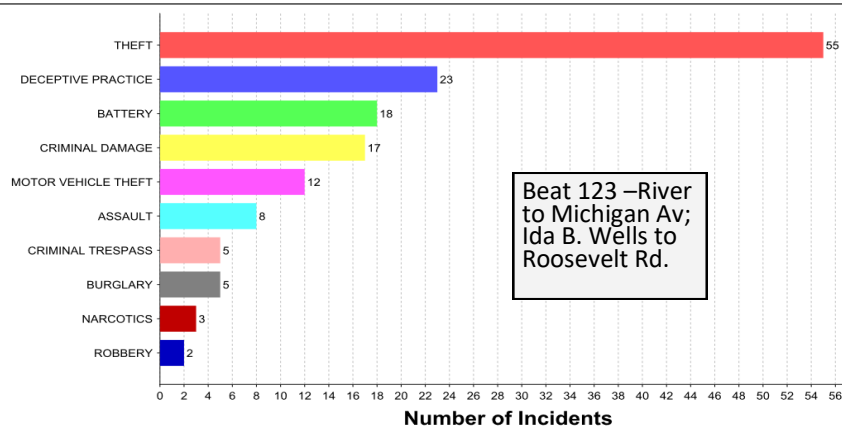
10/15/2023 10:10AM 500 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT Non-res Parking garage /beat 123

10/21/2023 40 W Polk
AUTO THEFT Non-res Parking Lot Beat 123

10/25/2023 700 S Financial Pl
ATTEMPT AUTO THEFT Street Beat 123

Report Date: 06-Nov-2023
Report Time: 13:20:19
Prepared By: Information Services
Division: PC02611
Run By:

Top Ten Crimes From 01-Oct-2023 To 31-Oct-2023 On Beat 0123



Chicago smash-and-grab burglary spree: 2 more shoe stores in South Loop, East Village

By [Evelyn Holmes](#) and ABC7 Chicago Digital Team

Thursday, October 26, 2023 8:47PM

Smash-and-grab burglars again targeted Chicago shoe stores Thursday morning.

CHICAGO (WLS) -- Two more shoe stores in Chicago were targeted in smash and grab crimes Thursday morning.

One of the victims even hired an overnight security guard to try and prevent this from happening.

For three days, thieves have been on a spree, targeting shops that sell expensive gym shoes.

A **shoe store in the South Loop** and another in the East Village neighborhood were both hit Thursday morning.

Surveillance video captured the incident at the Boneyard Chicago at 1101 North Ashland Avenue.

After armed robbers threatened at gunpoint the security guard hired to watch the store overnight, the driver of a dark-colored Jeep Grand Cherokee then jumped the curb and rammed the storefront three times with the SUV before gaining entry.

At least eight people in hoodies broke into the store and robbed it. This comes after two days of nearly identical crash and grabs.

At around 4:30 a.m., a group of thieves rammed a Jeep Cherokee into Unique Chicago on 18th and State streets in the South Loop, taking more high-end sneakers.



<https://abc7chicago.com/>

Follow up on 801 S Plymouth Ct. Stabbing from last month.

The victims are no longer residents of 801. The stabbing victim who was hospitalized is not cooperating with police.

Dearborn Express
Al Hippensteel, editor
312.939.8888
thedearbornexpress@gmail.com
Dearbornexpress.org



Real Estate Transactions

\$11,500,000
1103 S STATE ST
10/2/23

\$250,000
431 S DEARBORN ST 305
9/27/23

\$286,000
1250 S INDIANA AVE 912
9/22/23

\$290,000
600 S DEARBORN ST 1901
9/22/23

\$400,000
910 S MICHIGAN AVE 1415
9/22/23

\$405,000
125 E 13TH ST 612
9/21/23

\$350,000
1307 S WABASH 413
9/20/23

\$417,000
547 S CLARK ST 701
9/15/23

\$165,000
780 S FEDERAL ST 605
9/14/23

\$455,000
1515 S PRAIRIE AVE 811
9/14/23

\$310,000
901 S PLYMOUTH CT 904
9/13/23

\$310,000
1 E 8TH ST 702
9/12/23

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FOR RENT

600 S. Dearborn St #705 - 1br/1ba - \$1800/mo
 Clean bright one bedroom condo in the heart of Printers Row.
 Available January 15th, 2024

732 S. Financial Pl. #306 - 1br/1ba timber loft - \$2100/mo
 Beautifully updated timber loft in former printing factory. Bright southwest corner unit is flooded with tons of natural light. Great industrial loft with all the comforts of a luxury condo. Parking add \$350/mo extra
 Available December 1st, 2023

701 S. Wells St #3201 - 2br/2ba luxury condominium - \$3200/mo

Enjoy gorgeous lake and city skyline views from this spacious 1200 sq ft northeast corner city home. Rent includes everything except electricity in this full amenity building.

Indoor parking add \$200/mo
 Available December 1st, 2023

899 S. Plymouth Ct - 1br/1ba - \$1800/mo
 Clean bright one bedroom condo in the serene Dearborn Park neighborhood.
 Available December 1st, 2023

FOR SALE

600 S. Dearborn St #814
 Fully upgraded 1br/1ba offered at \$265K
 (Rented at \$2250/mo through spring 2024).

780 S. Federal St. #506
 Clean, bright 1br/1ba in the Printers Square Condominiums.
 Offered at \$165K

Dearborn Street
Realty

Tom Feddor,
312.203.3841

tomfeddor@gmail.com



611 S Wells St #2801
 1 bed, 1 bath
 \$275,000

Camille Canales
 Compass
 773.232.5282



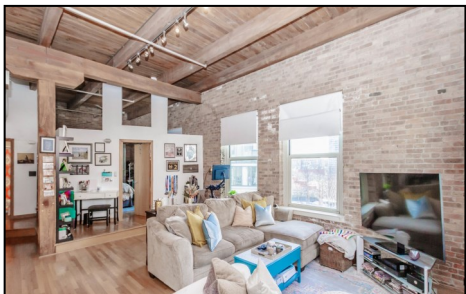
801 S Plymouth Ct #108
 1 bed, 1 bath, 950 sq ft
 \$224,900

Greg Mucha
 Coldwell Banker
 Real Estate Group
 630.546.7877



900 S Wabash Ave #701
 1 bed, 1 bath, 950 sq ft
 \$239,900

Giovanni Leopaldi
 Compass
 708.935.1983



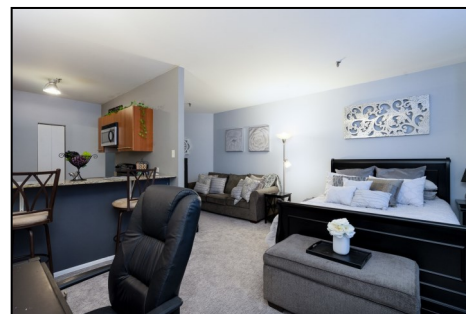
1306 S Plymouth Ct
 3 bed, 3.5 bath, 3300 sq ft
 \$1,300,000

Katrina de los Reyes
 Berkshire Hathaway
 HomeServices Chicago
 847.337.0140



740 S Federal St #403
 0 bed, 1 bath
 \$134,900

Kimberly Wirtz
 Wirtz Real Estate Group
 708.516.3050



1464 S Michigan Ave #1707
 2 bed, 2 bath
 \$320,000

Jennifer Barnes
 @properties Christie's
 International
 312.399.0470

