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Dearbornexpress.net



Bring Chicago Home proposal

Illinois Primary Election day is Tuesday, March 19th. Early voting has already started.

An important measure will be on the ballot. This is a property transfer tax that will only affect you when you're buying property.

According to WBEZ Public Radio, the measure slated to appear on the March ballot would change that tax to a tiered, marginal one, with the tax rate based on a property's value.

There would be three tiers. Under the proposal, the tax rate for the proportion of property valued at:

- Under \$1 million would decrease to 0.6%, or \$3 for every \$500 of the transfer price. This is a 20% decrease from the current tax rate of 0.75%.
- Between \$1 to \$1.5 million would increase to 2%, or \$10 for every \$500 of the transfer price. This is a 166.67% increase from the current rate.
- Over \$1.5 million would increase to 3%, or \$15 for every \$500 of the transfer price. This is a 300% increase from the current rate.

Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration has said 96% of property sales fall below the \$1 million threshold, meaning most Chicagoans would experience this as a tax cut.

Here is a Power Point presentation provided to "Indivisible Downtown Chicago." It answers many of the questions you may have.

[SLIDE PRESENTATION](#)

FEBRARY 15, 2024

Vol. 12, No.2

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JAZZ SHOWCASE

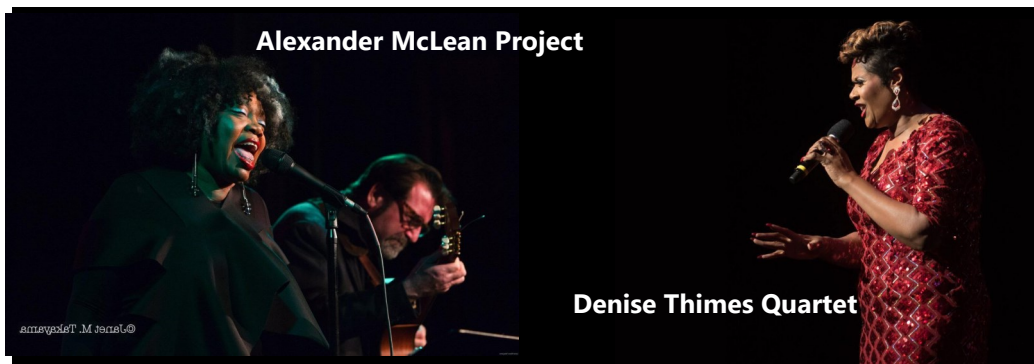
Thu-Sat, Feb 15-17, 8pm & 10pm.....The Alexander McLean Project
 Sun, Feb 18, 4pm & 8pm.....The Alexander McLean Project
 Tue, Feb 20, 8pm & 10pm.....Andy Pratt Trio CD Release
 Wed, Feb 21, 8pm & 10pm.....Julian & Friends
 Thu-Sat, Feb 22-24, 8pm & 10pm.....Vocalist Denise Thimes Quartet
 Sun, Feb 25, 4pm & 8pm..... Vocalist Denise Thimes Quartet
 Tue, Feb 27, 8pm & 10pm.....Eddie Who?
 Wed, Feb 28, 8pm & 10pm.....Chicago Soul Jazz Collective featuring Yvonne Gage
 Thu-Sat, Feb 29-Mar 2, 8pm & 10pm.....Christopher McBride Quartet
 Sun, Mar 3, 4pm & 8pm.....Christopher McBride Quartet
 Tue, Mar 5, 8pm & 10pm.....Bob Lark
 Wed, Mar 6, 8pm & 10pm.....WDCB 90.0 FM presents Christy Bennett Quartet
 Celebrates Cole Porter
 Thu-Sat, Mar 7-9, 4pm & 10pm.....Bobby Lewis Quintet
 Sun, Mar 10, 4pm & 8pm..... Bobby Lewis Quintet
 Wed, March 13, 5pm..... Chicago Soul Jazz Collective featuring Yvonne Gage



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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

Vice Pres. Jack Chalabian

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Best Deal in the South Loop

The South Loop Neighbors has two forms of memberships. One is a full, dues paying membership and the other is a free affiliate membership.

A full, dues paying membership provides a number of benefits but also help SLN pay for operational costs, such as room rentals for our meetings. In addition to receiving the monthly digital SLN newsletter, full members also can attend our annual members dinner for free (see above), get discounted member rates throughout the year on SLN events that have a cost and get first access to limited events. Membership dues start at \$35 for an individual and \$20 for a senior.

An affiliate membership, which is free, provides for the monthly digital SLN newsletter.

To sign up for full SLN membership, [click here!](#)



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BEST
PLACES TO WORK

Chicago
REALTORS

Safe & Sound Blog by Beth Finke



[Questions Kids Ask: Did Anything Scary Ever Happen to You?](#) January 28, 2024

Two days ago our friend Ruth drove my Seeing Eye dog Luna and me to the Admiral At the Lake, a retirement community where I lead memoir-writing classes every Wednesday. I wasn't there this time to lead a writing class, though: we were there to answer questions from third-graders who attend Goudy Elementary, a Public school for children of immigrants that is located near the Admiral in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood.

The third graders are part of a Friday "reading buddies" program at The Admiral, and on certain Fridays the third grade teachers and their students walk from Goudy Elementary to the Admiral so each third-grader can read out loud to an assigned Admiral resident, their "reading buddy."

Luna and I were invited there last Friday because the third-graders had all read my children's book "Safe & Sound" and they wanted to meet me. I gave a short presentation to explain how Luna had to go to the Seeing Eye School to learn to lead me around safely, and each child was encouraged to ask me a question when it was their turn. Every single child told me their name, then introduced their question a la, "Hello, my name is Sunil, and here's my question...". I made a point to repeat each question so the Reading Buddies in the audience could hear them, too.

Some examples:

- How do you know what you are wearing?
- How does your dog know where he's going?
- Is there one place you go with your dog every day?
- Did any dog inspire Luna to help you?
- How do you lock the door?
- How do you come up with ideas of what to write?
- How old is your dog?
- How do you cook?
- How do you find the doorknob?
- How old are you?
- Did anything scary ever happen to you when you were with your dog?
- How do you grab things? How do you find them?
- You said you had five Seeing Eye dogs – which one is your favorite?



My group's graduation picture from the January class, 2020. I'm so lucky I got matched with Luna before the pandemic.

Dora, Hanni, Harper, Whitney...you'd think it'd be hard to choose, but for me this question is easy to answer.

"Whichever dog is working with me right now is always my favorite," I told them.

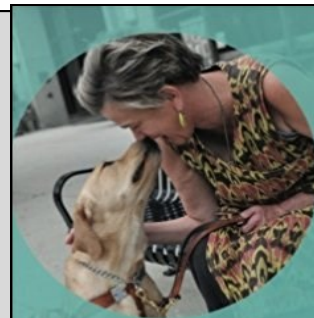
"So right now Luna is my favorite."

The kids really were very, very well-behaved. The afternoon was delightful, everyone had a chance to participate and our interaction wasn't limited to the most vocal in the group. Each one got a turn to ask their question.

Their reward? I took Luna's harness off and invited them to pet her when it came time to head outside and walk back to Goudy Elementary. The Admiral had provided cookies for everyone, and the kids saw to it that our friend Ruth got a few on her way out. Everybody won!

[COMMENT](#)

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

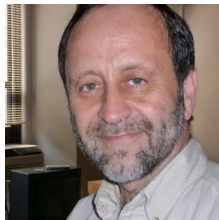
OPINION

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:

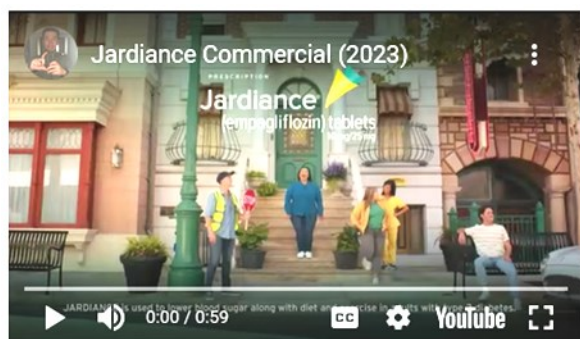
by [mknezo2014](#)

[Mondays with Mike:](#) [Pharma-musicals](#)



January 15, 2024 • [Comments](#) • Posted in [Mike Knezovich](#), [Mondays with Mike](#)

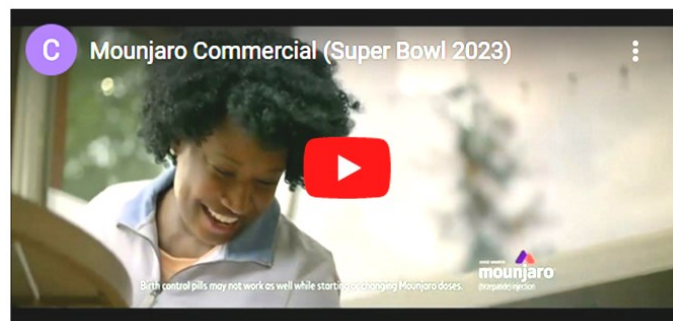
Maybe it's just people of my age who are seeing these things, but there seems to be a spurt of TV ads for various prescription drugs that are mini-musicals. This one, for Jardiance, is probably the most musical-like of these jaunty ads:



Jardiance is one of those drugs for type 2 diabetics that is also being used for weight loss. There must be something about lowering one's A1C (a test that produces a measure of blood sugar control over time) that really makes people want to get up and dance—for Ozempic ads set characters in motion to some pretty annoying ear-worm music:



On one hand, it's kind of cool that A1C knowledge is going mainstream—I first learned about it when Beth and I started going out decades ago. Back then it was newish and kind of a novelty and had we mentioned it to friends, we would've been greeted by blank stares. On the other hand, I can't help but see an incongruity between a serious, chronic condition and the urge to get up and dance. (Some non-prescription drugs, maybe.) I kinda feel like Eli Lilly strikes a more appropriate tone with its ad for its type 2 drug Mounjaro.



Apart from wondering what the meetings about naming these drugs must have been like, I can't help but also wonder how much they cost to produce, and worse yet, the ad spends these companies make to get them on screens so often. In addition, they all tout their weight loss potential, and you just know that we're eventually going to learn about how that's a bad idea (that is, taking it expressly for weight loss and not type 2 diabetes) long after the horse is out of the barn.

In a pretty wealthy nation where lots of people have no health care (save for emergency room visits) or inadequate care and bad insurance coverage, the song and dance is hard to stomach.

[COMMENT](#)

MOST RECENT EPISODES

February 2, 2024

What the Media Gets Wrong About Immigration, and Chris Hayes Wants More Trump Coverage!

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has threatened to defy the federal government's control over the border as the surge of migrants continues. On this week's On the Media, a look at what might be a brewing constitutional crisis. Plus, hear MSNBC's Chris Hayes make a case for why journalists should be paying even closer attention to Donald Trump. 1. Adam Serwer [@AdamSerwer], staff writer at The Atlantic, on the humanitarian and constitutional crisis at the Texas border. Listen. 2. Jonathan Blitzer [@JonathanBlitzer], staff writer at The New Yorker, on what the media misses when it covers immigration. Plus, how and why U.S. immigration changed in the 21st century. Listen. 3. Chris Hayes [@chrishayes], host of "All In with Chris Hayes" on MSNBC, on reasons why the media should re-up their focus on Donald Trump. Listen.

Click here

ON THE MEDIA



Sunday, February 18
Piano Forte

Valentine's Day Bake-Fest

Wine, tea, hot cocoa, and coffee provided.

Time & Location

Feb 18, 2024, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Piano Forte, 1335 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60605,
About the event

Join the South Loop Neighbors for a fun Valentine's Day social event where attendees will get to vote for their favorites in the cookie and cupcake bake-fest. Prizes for best in each category and live music! **You are invited to enter either the cookie or the cupcake contest (please bring 2 dozen).**

Or you can just join us for treats and drinks!

[RSVP](#)

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Tuesday, February 27, 2024

11:30 AM - Registration

12:00 PM - Program & Lunch

The Near South Welcomes the DNC

Let's Hear from the Experts:

Christy George

Executive Director,
Chicago DNC Host Committee

Keiana Barrett

Senior Advisor,
Chicago DNC Host Committee

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Black History: SA Cosby, **All the Sinners Bleed** (Flatiron Books 2023)

The best thing about SA Cosby's latest crime thriller/mystery is the epilogue: Stephen King (who, like Barack Obama, loved the book) calls it "a final treat that's worth the whole trip." But the prologue could be the saddest part of this hell-raising, heart-racing, soul-searching, police procedural, existential *tour de force*—simply because there's nothing more to read. It's about a school shooting; a serial killer; a raucous fight over the statue of an anonymous Confederate, who battled in the 1860's but was not honored until 1923, when some racists feared that black soldiers returning home from World War I might try to claim their rightful place in society. It's about an angry young minister, who sports braids and jeans and Timberland boots and suspects everything the Sheriff does is an extension of slavery. It's about blood and guts and bowie knives; it's about zealots immolating themselves and their own children and running 3-ton trucks over innocent festival-goers. It's about pedophilia and persecution; drinking and drugs; race and religion. Titus left the FBI under some cloud to become its first black, and professional, elected sheriff. Though constrained by his badge, Titus "really wants to do the right thing," aware of how unfairly his office operated before. The religion of the killers are fallen angels, who carve on their victims "our salvation is his suffering," referring to the crucified Redeemer of christian belief. Even the title emanates, however perversely, from the **American Baptist Songbook** (1871): "*Did'st thou not...for sinners bleed?*" Titus claims he's an atheist. But "twenty years removed from the last time he willingly attended... church" he employs "the jargon of the devout...the cadence,

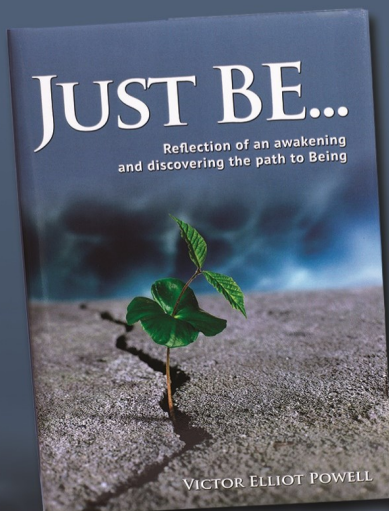
the syncopation, the King James syntax...all there waiting to reemerge like seventeen-year cicadas." Both a blessing (for us readers) and a curse for this cop—Cosby uses one of the best of a multitude of similes. The book is about family, love, and loss of all kinds. "Get sick, get broke or lose your only son...your faith will run out of town faster than a deadbeat daddy." **All the Sinners Bleed** is a recent part of a long history of black writing, despite the *dejure* and *defacto* discrimination against black authors. In 1873, American town fathers attested to a publisher that "poems submitted for publication were... written by Phillis [Wheatley], a young Negro Girl... brought an uncultivated Barbarian from *Africa*...Ever since...and now is, under the Disadvantage of serving as a Slave ...in this town." Black crime novels were not far behind, like Pauline Hopkins's **Hagar's Daughter** (1901) and John E. Bruce's **Black Sleuth** (1907). Chester Himes began writing in 1926 while serving hard time for armed robbery and burglary in Ohio; he's known best for **Cotton Comes to Harlem**, featuring crime-solvers Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson. Local writer Eleanor Taylor Bland was a full-time accountant for Abbot Labs when she created a series of books about the first female homicide detective—a former Chicago cop who relocated to the suburbs after her policeman husband breathed his last. Walter Mosley remains the patron saint of all crime writers, whose tough LA Dick is represented on screen by Denzel Washington. Cosby's cohort is just beginning to show its stuff; be glad Cosby did.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park / February, 2024



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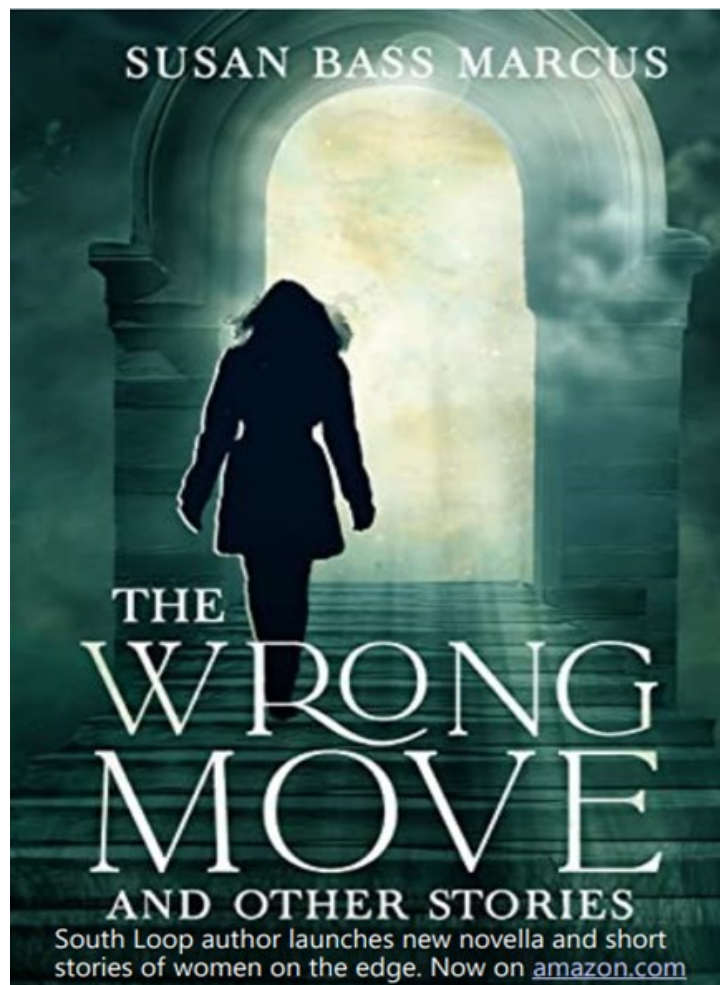


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Black History Month Family Free Days

Celebrate Black History Month with a literary twist at the American Writers Museum's Family Free Days! Enjoy free admission to the museum and a variety of activities for the whole family.

Forever Free: A Frederick Douglass Tour

Discover the incredible legacy and enduring impact of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, as well as other Black writers who came before and after him. This 15-minute tour introduces you to all areas of the American Writers Museum. **11:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm; Sunday & Monday**

Black History Month Bingo

Celebrate Black History Month with family-friendly Bingo, exploring the rich contributions of African American writers through a playful and educational experience! **2:00pm; Sunday & Monday**



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

<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>

THE PALLBEARERS OF THANKSGIVING



Milo Savich

New Novel by Local Author

A group of unemployed steelworkers from Wisconsin Steel on the south side of Chicago organize a Thanksgiving Day demonstration in 1983 in order to call attention to their plight after the mill was suddenly shut down. Their gimmick is a coffin that the demonstrators will carry that represents the death of the American steelworker.

Savich's searing prose captures the rough life of the steelworkers with wry humor and compassion, especially their struggles, camaraderie, and feelings of betrayal. The characters are all well-etched, complex, and true to life, and their talk is funny, bleak, pained, and convincing ... these creations and lives linger in the mind after the last page....

— *BookLife*

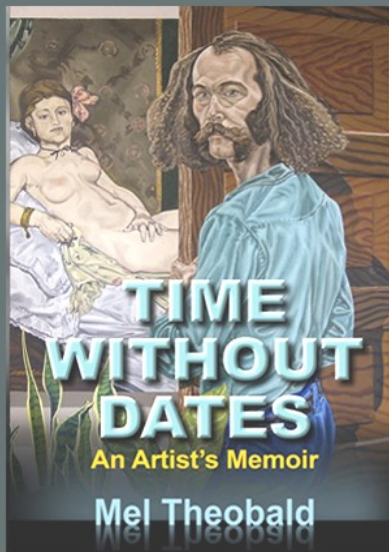
\$14.95 92 pages ISBN: 978-1-7374709-3-9

Available on Amazon

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

Sharks and Snakes At the Movies

February 9, 2024



One summer in the early 1960s, my mother walked the beach near our Sea Girt, New Jersey home. A shark came into the calm shallow of the Atlantic and chomped off the leg of a man wading right in front of her.

Another that week. And another. Grisly accounts and sightings of man-eating “great whites” all along the central Jersey coast appeared daily in the Asbury Park Press. Life-guards stood high on their stands and whistled us out of the surf repeatedly at any sign of a dorsal fin. The summer was terrifying.

When Peter Benchley’s 1974 novel, *Jaws*, appeared on the paperback rack, my mother snatched it up, read it, and passed it on. She and everyone else at the Jersey Shore convinced themselves that Benchley, who lived in New Jersey, based the book on our summer shark attacks.

What a book. After eyeing that famous book cover, my seven-year-old son, Joe, became interested in and eventually obsessed with sharks. Having read in Dr. Spock that I shouldn’t tell my child frightening stories, like the crucifixion of Jesus, I kept the *Jaws* story from him.

The movie *Jaws* was released the following year. I refused to watch it, much less expose it to my eight-year-old. His sleep was already interrupted by nightmares after getting hit with a pitched baseball at Little League.

At age nine, Joe announced that *Jaws* was at the neighborhood theater on Dollar Day and begged me to take him. The near-empty theater was spooky. I held both hands over my eyes for most of the show.

“You can open your eyes now,” Joe said.

I did, just as the shark was ripping apart a girl on her raft.

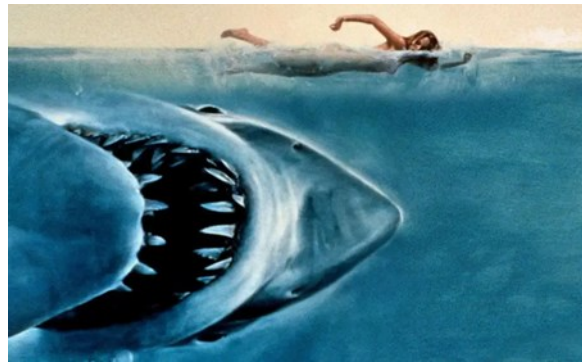
“Oh my god! I’m going to puke! I thought you said it was ok!”

We laughed so hard we could hardly hear the movie. Thus began those funny years when boys learn there’s a big payoff in pranking their parents.

When *Raiders of the Lost Ark* came out in 1981, we lived in Chicago.

“Is it about Noah’s Ark?” I asked Joe.

“No. The Ark of the Covenant. You know, where the Ten Commandments are.”



Dragging him to Sunday school all those years had paid off.

We ran to the 1,400-seat Esquire Theater on Oak Street. The only tickets left were upfront. Right there, on the front row, the entire wall before me slithered and hissed as Harrison Ford was lowered into a hypnotic pit of 10,000 snakes.

I shut my eyes.

“OK to look now,” Joe whispered.

And again, I got fooled into watching the creepiest part of the movie, where Indiana Jones is staring down a hooded cobra.

Raiders is set in 1936 and follows Indiana Jones vying with Nazi Germans to recover the invaluable long-lost Ark of the Covenant. Some have interpreted it as Steven Spielberg’s creation to slam the Nazis for the Holocaust. But to me, it’s a hilarious, breathless adventure, made memorably funnier by the prank of my fourteen-year-old movie companion.

And a memorable relief from how I view Nazis today.

COMMENT

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

Available at Sandmeyer’s Book Store and other places.



WEEKLY WINTER INDOOR MARKET

@ ROOSEVELT COLLECTION

SATURDAYS, JANUARY 6 - MARCH 30

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM @ 150 W. Roosevelt Rd. next to

ULTA

(2-Hour Free Validated Customer Parking)

Our 2024 Winter Indoor Vendor List is still being updated.

Please note that vendors have varying schedules, so be sure to reach out to your favorite vendor directly to confirm their schedule

Market Vendors

Farmers Market

INDOOR @ Roosevelt Collection

Saturdays 9am - 1pm

150 W Roosevelt Rd

January - March
Presented By:

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www.SouthLoopFarmersMarket.com

New Officers

At the January Annual Meeting for South Loop Neighbors, the membership voted on and approved the following individuals to serve on the board.

Jim Wales - President

Jack Chalabian - Vice President

Dennis McClendon - Vice President of
Planning & Development

Dorothy Miaso - Treasurer

Benjamin Cottrell - Secretary

Roger Marsh - Director & Chair of Membership

Greg Borzo - Director

Sarah Breedlove - Director

Rob Hard - Director

Susan Zinner - Director



www.southloopneighbors.org

CHICAGO
Burger Alley

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WEDNESDAY 11AM-11PM

THURSDAY 11AM-12AM

FRIDAY 11AM-12AM

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Necessary and Sufficient is a woman-owned coffee shop in Logan Square. (Grace Wong / Chicago Tribune)

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Editor's Letter: February, 2024

February 5, 2024 by [Brian Hieggelke](#)

Even though we don't create anniversary issues that glory in nostalgia, it's inevitable to contemplate your past at times like these. And a funny thing happened as we worked on this issue marking our thirty-eighth birthday. The news broke that the Chicago White Sox were contemplating a move to the South Loop, on the site known as "The 78." In 1986, the White Sox were contemplating a move onto that very site, and that was the very first story we put on our cover. Déjà vu will come for you whether you want it to or not.



Detail, Tools on a workbench in Richard Hunt's studio. Photo: Marc Monaghan | Cover Design: Dan Streeting

When we started Newcity in 1986, we paid our bills through my day job at an investment banking firm. Our interest in visual art was already strong before that, and if we had not started a publication, I might have stayed on Wall Street, and we would have become collectors. Many years later, we launched Newcity Brazil, and that led to a love for that country, as well as its exceptional visual art culture.

So when a story that would combine all of these personal threads—finance, Chicago art and Brazil—presented itself, I could not resist taking it on. Last spring Marissa Lee Benedict, Daniel de Paula and David Rueter visited the Newcity HQ and we had a wide-ranging conversation about art, capitalism and seemingly everything else in the world. It was one of my favorite interviews ever, but it ran so long that it took almost a year for me to find the time to finish the story. I even managed to visit Sao Paulo and get a tour of a solo exhibition by de Paula in the meantime. Note to self: Do not assign long features to self.

Don't go looking for introspection beyond this letter in these pages. We intentionally did not do a "special issue" but rather chose to assemble the very best version of Newcity that we are capable of right now. It was not meant to be such an art-intensive issue, either, but fate had other plans, and the loss of two monumental Chicago artists, Richard Hunt and Pope.L, demanded our attention. I believe that Alison Cuddy and Andrea Holliday did exceptional work in memorializing them in ways you will not see in any obituary section.

Death, like a birthday, encourages us to contemplate not only the lives we've lost, but also the one we're still living.

And in that spirit, onward, to Newcity 2024.

BRIAN HIEGGELKE

NEWCITY [newcity.com](#)

Look for Newcity's February 2024 print edition at over 300 Chicago-area locations this week or subscribe to the print edition at [Newcityshop.com](#).

IN THIS ISSUE

Inside the Church of Pope.L

How the iconic artist's death affected his friends and disciples

Worlds Remade

The state of art in Kansas City

In the Cathedral of Sculpture

The last days and years of Richard Hunt

Trading Up

How and why a team of international artists took control of the last pit at the Chicago Board of Trade

AND Comics

"We Collect Cans For Money"

A new comic by Ebony Flowers

Poetry

"Rituals"

A new poem by Sylvia Ewing

And so much more...

NEWCITY [newcity.com](#)

[An Evening of Piano Masterworks with Antonio DiCristofano](#)

Program

Schubert Sonata

Op. 164

Brahms Klavier-
stücke Op. 118

n.1-2-3

Chopin Ballade

Op. 52

Rachmaninoff

Elegy Op. 3

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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

I'm going to stop suggesting "should reads" to my book group

By **Marianne Goss**

Should book groups read sure bets or challenging books they may not love?

The seven members of my fiction-reading group are open to challenging novels, but I still hope that everyone likes the books I suggest. Fortunately, we have a process that makes the whole group ultimately responsible for the choice. The person whose turn it is proposes a few, usually three, titles from which the rest of us pick.

The word "like" doesn't fit our last choice suggested by me, N. Scott Momaday's *House Made of Dawn*. We all thought the 1969 Pulitzer Prizer winner, about a Native American who feels alienated on both the reservation and in urban society, was an arduous read, with its dense, poetic language, nonlinear plot, and inscrutable main character.

House Made of Dawn could contend for the least-liked book in our 25-year history were that title not already held by another of my suggestions, *Women of Sand and Myrrh*, by Hanna al-Shaykh. For my first turn after 9/11, I thought it would be good for us to read something by an Arab writer.

Not learning a lesson about recommending novels that we "should" read, I have the distinction of suggesting our only recalled book, Jean Toomer's *Cane*, proposed when I thought we were due for an African American author. Finding the first few pages grueling, I nervously emailed the group, asking to substitute the second choice.

Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, chosen from my "great American novels we haven't read" list, was another one I loathed. I found it tedious, rambling, and long-winded, although some of the group didn't agree.

My history suggests that I ought to play it safe on my next turn, perhaps proposing books that I've read, liked, and want to reread and discuss.

Granted, enjoyment isn't the sole reason for being in a book group. We join book groups to stretch our intellects, to get others' help in understanding what we read, and to discover new authors. Even as our group was criticizing *House Made of Dawn*, a couple of people commented, "I'm glad I read it." I think they meant they found value in exposure to an unfamiliar perspective.



Still, I want to take pleasure in what I read, and I want others to take pleasure from books they're reading on my suggestion. Yes, it's impossible to know beforehand whether a book will be liked by anyone else, much less everyone. There are no sure bets. I think I'd come closer to the target, however, if I stopped thinking about book group as the place for difficult books I should but wouldn't read on my own.

My file called "book group possibilities" that is full of "should reads" — international authors, major authors we haven't read, neglected classics — is going to get a lot shorter.

COMMENT

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

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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 :



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Ages 21 and up
Friday, February 16
Show: 8pm
\$25

[Buddy Guy's Legends](#)

Online ticket cut off time is 4:00PM day of show. Tickets are available at the door after 5:00PM

Free Acoustic Set: Billy Flynn 5:30-7:30PM

Opening Band: Nicholas Alexander 8:00-9:00PM

Headlining Band: Mississippi Heat 9:30PM – Close



NuBlu Band Ft. Carlise Guy

Ages 21 and up
Saturday, February 17
Show: 9pm
\$25

[Buddy Guy's Legends](#)

Online ticket cut off time is 4:00PM day of show. Tickets are available at the door after 5:00PM

Free Acoustic Set: Nigel Mack 5:30-8:00PM

Opening Band: Tiffany Renee & The Volumes of Chicago 9:00-10:00PM

**Headlining Band: NuBlu Band Ft. Carlise Guy
10:30PM – Close**

21+ After 8:00PM

SEATING POLICY:

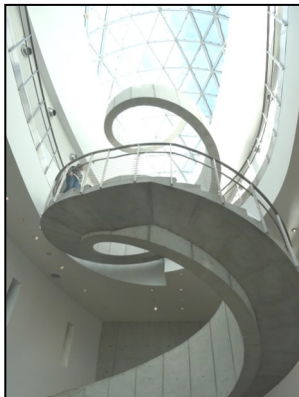
All tickets sold are General Admission, which means table/bar seating are on a **first-come, first-served** basis. Buying your ticket online in advance guarantees admission (not seating). We recommend arriving early for seating.

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No professional photo/video equipment will be allowed without a media pass.

BAG/SEARCH POLICY:

No luggage, large bags, backpacks, briefcases, or computer bags. Small bags and purses are subject to search.



Your editor and wife just returned from our annual trek to Florida yesterday.

Photo on the left is the spiral staircase at the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg.

Photo on the right is the "Pyramids of Florida." A unique resort and spa in Fort Myers. Each pyramid is a two story unit.



Photo on the left is Florida Bay on a foggy morning in the Everglades National Park. We stayed in the new cool lodge.

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Nalikotaar Jacqueline Cleveland. Molly Alexie and her children after a harvest of beach greens in Quinagak, Alaska, 2018. Courtesy of the artist.

Native America: In Translation

Through Sunday, May 12, 2024

About the Exhibition

Native America: In Translation brings together the works of nine Native artists who explore aspects of community, heritage, and the legacy of colonialism on the North American continent. By posing challenging questions about land rights, identity, and the legacy of violence toward Native people perpetrated by settler governments, the artists probe the fraught history of photography in representing Indigenous populations. Representing diverse nations and affiliations, the artists reclaim complex personal and collective narratives to imagine new histories of image-making. "The ultimate form of decolonization is through how Native languages form a view of the world," exhibition curator Wendy Red Star notes. "These artists provide sharp perceptions, rooted in their cultures."

Native America: In Translation features works by Rebecca Belmore, Nalikotaar Jacqueline Cleveland, Martine Gutierrez, Duane Linklater, Guadalupe Maravilla, Kimowan Metchewais, Alan Michelson, Koyoltzintli, and Marianne Nicolson.

Native America: In Translation is curated by Wendy Red Star as she expands on her role as guest editor of the Fall 2020 issue of *Aperture* magazine. The exhibition is organized by Aperture and is made possible, in part, with generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The MoCP presentation of *Native America: In Translation* is supported by Columbia College Chicago, MoCP Advisory Board, the Museum Council, individuals, and private and corporate foundations. The 2023–2024 exhibition season is sponsored in part by the Comer Family Foundation, Efroymsen Family Fund, Henry Nias Foundation, Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation, and Pritzker Traubert Foundation. This project is partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and a CityArts grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

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The Lodge at the Everglades National Park is constructed from shipping containers. It's been over twenty years since the old lodge was destroyed by a hurricane.



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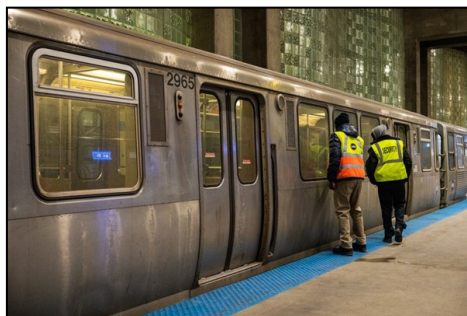
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CTA Smoking Tickets Spike As Police Crack Down On Puffing Passengers

The Police Department issued more than 6,300 citations



to people smoking on

CTA properties in 2023, the highest number since 2019, when 6,494 citations were issued, CTA officials said.

by [Ariel Parrella-Aureli](#) February 7, 2024

CTA workers wake up and remove unhoused passengers from a CTA Blue Line train at O'Hare International Airport on Jan. 31, 2023. Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

CHICAGO — It's been a smoke-filled few years on the CTA, but the transit agency says police are cracking down on rule-breaking passengers after many complaints from riders.

The Police Department issued more than 6,300 citations to people smoking on CTA properties in 2023, the highest number since 2019, when 6,494 citations were issued, CTA officials said in a Wednesday news release.

"Smoking on CTA trains, buses and stations is not just illegal, it's thoughtless," CTA President Dorval R. Carter Jr. said in a news release. "Not only is it a public health issue for those inhaling second-hand smoke, but it's a nuisance to others who just want an enjoyable transit riding experience."

Smoking is [not allowed](#) on CTA trains and platforms, and the agency has recently released updated digital ads and audio announcements to emphasize the no-smoking message. But that hasn't stopped the smelly behavior, particularly on the Blue and Red lines, which run 24/7.

The CTA received more than 1,000 smoking complaints from customers in 2023. The Red and Blue lines received the most complaints, with 438 and 313 respectively, officials said.

Nate Hill, who frequently rides the Red Line, started a [petition](#) late last year calling on the transit agency to "eradicate" smoking on trains.

"Many Chicagoans rely on the CTA for daily transit around the city. Extremely frequently, we have to switch train cars because one or more people are smoking on the train," Hill wrote. "Sometimes we even have to switch cars multiple times in order to find a train car without smokers."

The petition also called for a more effective way to report smoking passengers.

Security stands on the platform at the O'Hare CTA Blue Line on Jan. 17, 2023. Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

The uptick in citations shows the CTA is listening to frustrated riders and working to improve the customer experience, agency officials said.

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.



Winter COAT Drive

November 1, 2023—February 29, 2024.

Donations are received Tuesdays -Fridays, 11am-1pm



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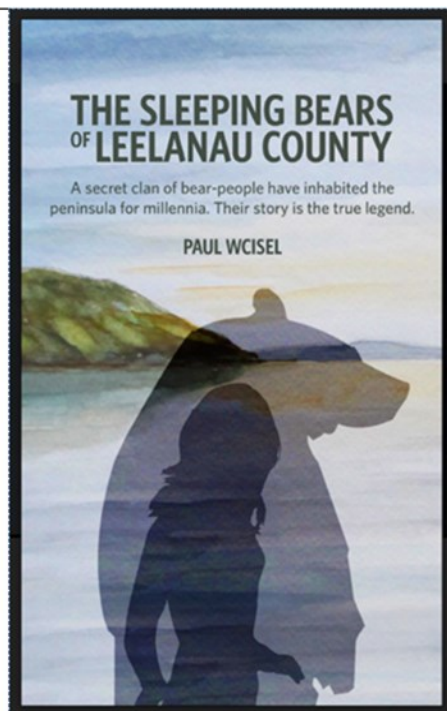
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Chicago Newcomers Assistance Network

Supporting Asylum Seekers at South Loop Landing Station. See Facebook page for updates

See the website for an overview of how to help: ChicagoNewcomers.org

Join this Facebook group to follow more closely: Facebook.com/groups/d1nan

Make a tax deductible donation via our fiscal sponsor [Life Quilt Foundation](http://LifeQuiltFoundation)

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

Continued from page 16-Trains

[Complaints about bad behavior](#), including cigarette and weed smoking from people on trains, rose at the start of the pandemic, a trend impacting transit systems around the country, CTA officials previously said.

[Dozens of private security officers](#) began patrolling trains and platforms in 2022 in response to safety concerns and to work with people experiencing homelessness, [who often ride the trains during the winter](#).

[Riders have also complained](#) about late or ghost trains, increased littering, urination, public defecation and unruly behavior since 2020.

The situation also has gotten worse for CTA employees, who say they are routinely threatened on the job and don't feel they have enough resources to enforce rules and keep themselves and passengers safe. Crime on trains more than doubled in 2020 compared to 2019, according to the [the Tribune, and attacks on operators have risen](#).

CTA officials say passengers should alert security officers or employees about smoking on trains or buses, and the agency plans to continue working with police to curb the problem.

https://blockclubchicago.org/2024/02/07/cta-smoking-tickets-spike-as-police-crack-down-on-puffing-passengers/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Dollar+Stores+Rack+Up+Big+Fines+-+But+Rarely+Fix+Problem+Stores&utm_campaign=Thursday%2C+Feb++8%2C+2024+Morning+List



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Everyday Chicagoans' Can Help Migrants Through New Volunteer Program

The city is working with ChicagoCares and the Chicago Refugee Coalition to streamline ways people can pitch in to help asylum seekers arriving in the area.

by [Madison Savedra](#) February 9, 2024

CHICAGO — The city is trying to make it easier for Chicagoans to help welcome migrants.

City leaders announced the New Neighbors Campaign on Thursday, saying it is collaborating with ChicagoCares and the Chicago Refugee Coalition to streamline and standardize volunteer opportunities to help migrants.

The campaign's first phase started last week, which included volunteers helping with things like the City Clerk's Office's city key events, the Resurrection Project's temporary protected status workshops and New Life Centers' donation work, said Rey Wences Najera, first deputy of immigrant, migrant and refugee rights.

The city is also gaining four [AmeriCorps VISTA members](#) to assist with the campaign, Wences said.

Organizations interested in being part of the campaign can [email](#) the Office of Immigrant, Migrant and Refugee Rights to be put in touch with ChicagoCares.

People interested in volunteering can visit the Chicago Refugee Coalition's The Hub landing page at thehub.chicagorefugee.org to start the process.

"We're honored to partner with the city to streamline the untapped reservoir of talent and generosity that we know Chicagoans have by activating our existing volunteer management system, ... a centralized platform designed to manage volunteer intake, distribution and management," said Connor Mautner, founder and strategic director of the Chicago Refugee Coalition. "Everyday Chicagoans now have a clear path to get involved to become a part of the solution."

This campaign "embodies Chicago's spirit of unity and compassion," Mayor Brandon Johnson said in a statement. "By incorporating volunteers through trusted mutual aid partners in a defined and secure way, we are able to serve this vulnerable population.

"And through fostering collaboration among community members, mutual aid groups, aldermanic offices, and city agencies, we are creating pathways for new arrivals to thrive and contribute to our vibrant tapestry of cultures."

[Volunteers and mutual aid partners have been calling on the city](#) to tap into its network of resources for months, saying it's in a unique position to provide help quickly and with dignity.



Dozens of people are fed by various Christian organizations across the street from the temporary migrant shelter in the 300 block of South Plymouth Avenue in the Loop on Oct. 30, 2023. Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

People have [assisted with legal aid](#), [launched donation drives](#), [welcomed migrants into community groups](#) and even [opened a volunteer-run shelter](#) for about four months last year.

[Neighbors were heavily involved](#) in responding to migrants' needs when police stations across the city became temporary shelter space for thousands of people, and they have at times blasted the city for shutting them out of city-run shelters after creating strong connections with individuals and families.

In the next phase of the program, volunteers can be connected to opportunities to work in shelters "to propel community connection [and] recreation," according to the Mayor's Office.

The Mayor's Office didn't say when the next phase will begin.

The city is also creating a working group with mutual aid volunteers to make a plan for volunteer engagement in shelters, Wences said.

More than 35,000 migrants have arrived in the city since August 2022. As of Thursday, there are more than 13,000 migrants staying in 28 temporary city shelters, according to data from the Office of Emergency Management and Communications.

https://blockclubchicago.org/2024/02/09/everyday-chicagoans-can-help-migrants-in-new-volunteer-program/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Chicago+s+Iconic+Palace+Grill+Damaged+In+Fire&utm_campaign=Friday%2C+Feb++9%2C+2024+Morning+List



<https://blockclubchicago.org/>

Theatre. . . . In the South Loop

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot **tells the story of a court case over the ultimate fate of Judas Iscariot.** The play uses flashbacks to animaged childhood, and lawyers who call for the testimonies of such witnesses as Mother Teresa, Caiaphas, Saint Monica, Sigmund Freud, and Satan.

Feb 14—18th, 2024

Miller Studio Theatre

Auditorium Building, room

BAT BOY The Musical

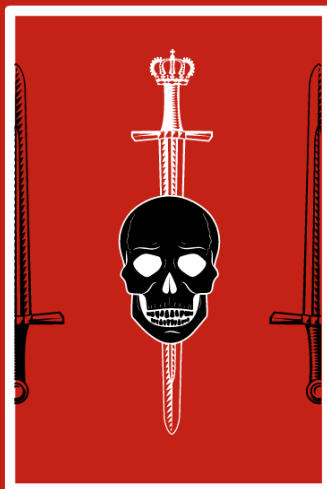
Based on a story in The Weekly World News, **Bat Boy – The Musical** is a musical comedy/horror show about a half boy/half bat creature who is discovered in a cave near Hope Falls, West Virginia. The local sheriff brings Bat Boy to the home of the town veterinarian, Dr. Parker, where he is eventually accepted as a member of the family and taught to act like a “normal” boy by the veterinarian’s wife and teenage daughter.

Wednesday, Feb 28 –Mar 3, 2024



Roosevelt University

Miller Theatre, 431 S Wabash, Chicago



The Tragedy of HAMLET Prince of Denmark

FEBRUARY 7TH 7:30PM FEBRUARY 14TH 7:30PM
 FEBRUARY 8TH 7:30PM FEBRUARY 15TH 7:30PM
 FEBRUARY 9TH 7:30PM FEBRUARY 16TH 7:30PM
 FEBRUARY 10TH 2:00PM FEBRUARY 17TH 2:00PM
 FEBRUARY 10TH 7:30PM

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

DIRECTED BY JEREMY MICHAEL COHN

THE COURTYARD THEATRE

THE GETZ THEATRE CENTER
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PERFORMANCE DATES

Wednesday, February 14th - 7:30 PM
 Thursday, February 15th - 7:30 PM
 Friday, February 16th - 7:30 PM
 Saturday, February 17th - 2:00 PM

Columbia College

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January 31, 2024 – February 25,

Based on the worldwide bestselling hit series by Dav Pilkey, **Dog Man: The Musical** is a hilarious and heartwarming new production following the chronicles of Dog Man, who with the head of a dog and the body of a policeman, loves to fight crime and chew on the furniture.

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March 15th, 7:30pm
 Tickets start at \$60.50 +
 \$9.50 fee

[TICKETS](#)

comedian **Paula Poundstone** is known for her smart, observational humor and a spontaneous wit that has become the stuff of legend. She regularly plays theaters across the country, hosts a weekly comedy podcast, *Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone*, and is a regular panelist on NPR’s *Wait, Wait... Don’t Tell Me*.



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College to increase tuition 5% next school year

By [Allison Shelton](#) and [Abra Richardson](#)

February 9, 2024

The college is raising tuition 5% for the second year in a row in an attempt to address a growing financial crisis. Full-time tuition will be \$32,372 for the 2024-2025 school year, an increase of \$1,538 over this year, [according to the email sent](#) to undergraduate students on Friday, Feb. 9.

The college's Board of Trustees approved the increase on Thursday, Feb. 8. Fees also will go up by 2.1%, and housing will increase 3%. Semester in LA and U-Pass charges are not part of fees.

Last year, the college [raised tuition by 5%](#) and the year before, it [raised tuition by 10%](#) after not raising it for the previous two years due to COVID-19.

More than half of Columbia students do not pay the full tuition costs, [as previously reported by the Chronicle](#). Last fall, 96% of first-year students received a discounted rate due to scholarships.

President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim has said that because Columbia is a tuition-based institution the increased scholarship support makes it hard to bring in enough revenue to support the college.

He told faculty in August that the college put about \$78 million of its tuition revenue back into scholarship support.

"We essentially put one-third of our operating budget in scholarship support," he said, while outlining cost-cutting measures the college would need to take to close the deficit. "That's not a sustainable number."

Galaxy Wolf, a first-year fashion merchandising major, said she relies on scholarship money and student loans to pay her tuition and housing at the college.

"It's normal for universities and colleges to raise tuition eventually or periodically, but seeing the amount of \$1,500, that's kind of a lot," she said. "Like why they're having to do it? I kind of wish they would share that with us instead of just like, 'oh, tuition is more now.'"

In a series of presentations this week, Kim said the college needs to make \$19 million in cuts for [next fall](#).

He also said in a Faculty Senate meeting today that at the direction of the Board of Trustees, the college will start a process to determine whether its financial situation is so bad that it may need to lay off full-time faculty with tenure appointments.

In [an email](#) on Thursday, Feb. 8 from Senior Vice President and Provost Marcella David stressed the urgency of addressing the financial issues.

Kim also said due to "reputational damage" from the strike, student applications for the fall 2024 semester are down 11% below what they were during the fall 2023 semester. "A smaller enrollment will impact next year's revenue and make the need to continue to address the cost of the delivery of education at Columbia College Chicago as urgent next year as in the past few years," she said.

The provost's office is aiming for an overall budget reduction of \$3.8 million, or 6.8%.



Photo: Abra Richardson

Breaking: President Kim to step down on July 1

By [Olivia Cohen](#), Editor-in-Chief

<https://columbiachronicle.com/breaking-president-kim-to-step-down-on-july-1>

David said she expects some departments to "adjust their fall and spring schedules to react to the lower enrollment target," and for some departments to create larger section sizes.

Sophomore animation major Alex Cardenas said they feel "betrayed," between the tuition increase and the part-time faculty strike last fall that disrupted the semester for seven weeks.

"I thought that Columbia was going to be a good enough school to teach me what I needed to know for my career," Cardenas said. "I had high expectations when I first entered freshman year, and I started losing hope after the strike, especially since one of [CFAC's] big reasons was because of money."

First-year music major Manuela Lopes worries about the tuition increase as an international student who is paying for her own tuition, while struggling to get scholarships. "I'm an international student so it's really hard to get scholarships," Lopes said. "I feel like I'm in a place that I have to transfer even if I don't want to, so if I ended up going back to Brazil, because of everything that's happening right now it's just literally going to be the saddest thing that happened to me."

Student Government Association President Tyler Harding, said he is "disappointed" by the decision to increase tuition and that every student at the college will be impacted negatively by the raise.

"A lot of Columbia students, including myself, pay their way through college, and this 5% increase is going to make it harder to do that," Harding said in an email to the Chronicle. "I hope Columbia will try to raise more outside scholarship funding to help our low-income students continue their education."

<https://columbiachronicle.com/college-to-increase-tuition-5-next-school-year#>

THE COLUMBIA
CHRONICLE

<https://columbiachronicle.com/>



The Robinson Report

4th Ward Service Office
Phone: 312-744-2690
Email: ward04@cityofchicago.org
Monday - Friday 9am-5pm

Dear Neighbor,

I'm thrilled to share the exciting news that in 2024, I will be establishing resident advisory councils to enhance community engagement, organize community driven events, and guide the initiatives of my office. Applications are currently open for the following councils:

- Youth Advisory Council
- Senior Advisory Council
- LGBTQ+ Advisory Council
- Economic Development & Business Advocacy Advisory Council
- Community Safety Advisory Council

I am actively seeking a diverse group of passionate residents from the 4th Ward to fill each council. If you have a keen interest in any of the council topics and can commit 5-10 hours per month to council activities, I wholeheartedly encourage you to apply. To submit your application [click here](#). Applications will be accepted until **Friday, January 13**.

Exciting Chicago Public Library Paid Internships

The Chicago Public Library will be hiring almost 70 paid interns this fall and spring. Opportunities include paid learning opportunities in experimental game design, cosplay, social media content creation, and running local book clubs in your neighborhood. To learn more and to apply [click here](#).

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

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



The Overseas Highway links the Florida Keys towards Key West. Formerly a train route, a Proposal to rename it Jimmy Buffett Memorial Highway.



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Here's What A New Sox Park In The South Loop Could Look Like

The developer of a proposed Sox Park at Roosevelt and Clark released renderings of the a future ballpark. by [Block Club Chicago Staff](#)

B

SOUTH LOOP — A developer's drawings of what a new Sox Park could look like in the South Loop's The 78 mega-development show a glitzy ballpark surrounded by new buildings and sitting on the bank of the Chicago River's South Branch.

A jump for the Sox from 35th Street to Roosevelt Road would take them two stops up the Red Line and out of their longtime home neighborhood of Bridgeport and into what the Sox envision as a built-up South Loop.

The developer Related Midwest released the renderings Wednesday. Similar versions had circulated online since the Chicago Sun-Times [first broke the story that the Sox were in "serious talks" to bolt from the publicly-owned Guaranteed Rate Field](#) and move to vacant land at Roosevelt and Clark that's been called The 78 because it could be the city's 78th community area.

Related Midwest owns the land, which was also floated as a casino site before Bally's won the contract to build it in River West.

Here's a look at what Related and the White Sox envision.

Ald. Nicole Lee (11th), whose ward includes Bridgeport and Guaranteed Rate Field, previously told Block Club she hopes the Sox consider staying in Bridgeport and in the 11th Ward.

Lee told the Sun-Times that if the team does move, there needs to be a plan for the huge hole the move would leave in the neighborhood.

"We're a long way from those renderings being a reality," Lee [told the paper](#). "And no matter what, there has to be redevelopment along 35th Street, to try to keep the Sox there or to attract somebody new. That's where my focus is."

Related Midwest also released conceptual drawings of what could be become of a vacated Guaranteed Rate Field, including a conversion to a soccer stadium with housing and park land built on its existing parking lots.

White Sox majority owner Jerry Reinsdorf's desire for a new home for the team was made public over the summer, when media reports said the team was [considering a new stadium in the city or suburbs or even a move to Nashville](#).



A rendering of the proposed Sox Park at The 78. Credit: Related Midwest

Shortly after that, new stadium talks began to focus around The 78, the long-vacant parcel of land in the South Loop that was [approved for redevelopment](#) in 2019. Last month, the Sun-Times reported the [White Sox were in serious talks](#) with Related Midwest about using space in the mega-development site.

The White Sox have played in Bridgeport since 1910, starting at beloved Comiskey Park and eventually moving to a larger stadium across the street in 1991, which also built as Comiskey Park but has since been renamed multiple times.

The deal to build the new Comiskey Park was forged by city and state lawmakers in 1988, after Reinsdorf threatened to move the team to Florida.

The White Sox current lease at the state-owned Guaranteed Rate Field runs for another five years, [according to Crain's](#).

[https://blockclubchicago.org/2024/02/08/heres-what-a-new-sox-park-in-the-south-loop-could-look-like/?](https://blockclubchicago.org/2024/02/08/heres-what-a-new-sox-park-in-the-south-loop-could-look-like/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Dollar+Stores+Rack+Up+Big+Fines+-+But+Rarely+Fix+Problem+Stores&utm_campaign=Thursday%2C+Feb++8%2C+2024+Morning+List)

[utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Dollar+Stores+Rack+Up+Big+Fines+-+But+Rarely+Fix+Problem+Stores&utm_campaign=Thursday%2C+Feb++8%2C+2024+Morning+List](https://blockclubchicago.org/2024/02/08/heres-what-a-new-sox-park-in-the-south-loop-could-look-like/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Dollar+Stores+Rack+Up+Big+Fines+-+But+Rarely+Fix+Problem+Stores&utm_campaign=Thursday%2C+Feb++8%2C+2024+Morning+List)



<https://blockclubchicago.org/>

Armed men rob 5 people during overnight spree from Lakeview to South Loop: Chicago police

[January 29, 2024 6:21 AM CWBChicago Lakeview, Near North, South Loop, West Town](#)

CHICAGO — Armed robbers pulled off an overnight robbery spree Monday, targeting at least five victims from the South Loop to Lakeview. The holdups bear some similarities to an overnight robbery spree reported last week. Two more robberies were reported on the Northwest Side.

Today's holdups began at 2:24 a.m. in the 500 block of West Diversey. Chicago police said four armed men exited a black sedan. They pistol-whipped a 35-year-old man and forced him to lie on the ground at gunpoint.

The group took his wallet and phone and also robbed a 31-year-old woman who was with him, according to CPD.

Then, around 2:40 a.m., two women were robbed as they walked outside Joe's on Weed in the 900 block of West Weed. Police said an armed man got out of a black sedan occupied by two accomplices. He took the victims' purses, phones, and other items, then returned to the vehicle and fled.

Another robbery was reported outside Homewood Suites, 59 East 11th Street in the South Loop, around 3:15 a.m. Police said four men got out of a black sedan, hit a 55-year-old man in the face with a pistol, and took his wallet and backpack at gunpoint.

An officer said that the crew kept his cash but returned to the scene to dump his wallet and bookbag in the street.

A dark-colored Infiniti, recently stolen from Brighton Park, may have been used in the first three robberies. The victims described the robbers as Black males wearing black clothing and masks.

Similar robberies were reported in some of the same areas early last Wednesday, January 24:

- Around 2 a.m., three men robbed and hit an Uber driver in the face at 27th and State Street.
- Around 5:30 a.m., two masked men got out of a black SUV and held up a woman at gunpoint as she was walking to the Lakeshore Athletic Club in the 1000 block of West Diversey.

An armed man who stepped out of a car took a woman's bag and lunch box after exiting a vehicle near Grand and Ogden around 5:50 a.m.

On the Northwest Side today, another robbery was reported a short time later in the 3800 block of North Elston. Again, four men exited a black sedan with guns.

And around 4:15 a.m., still another mugging occurred near Lawrence and Long in Jefferson Park. At least three men hit a woman in the head with a gun and took her purse and phone, according to initial information.

<https://cwbchicago.com/2024/01/chicago-robbery-sprees-lakeview-goose-island-south-loop.html>

<https://cwbchicago.com/>

CLICK on link for more



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!

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Next CAPS Meeting Mar 13, 2024
3pm virtual
Beat 123



caps.001district@chicagopolice.org

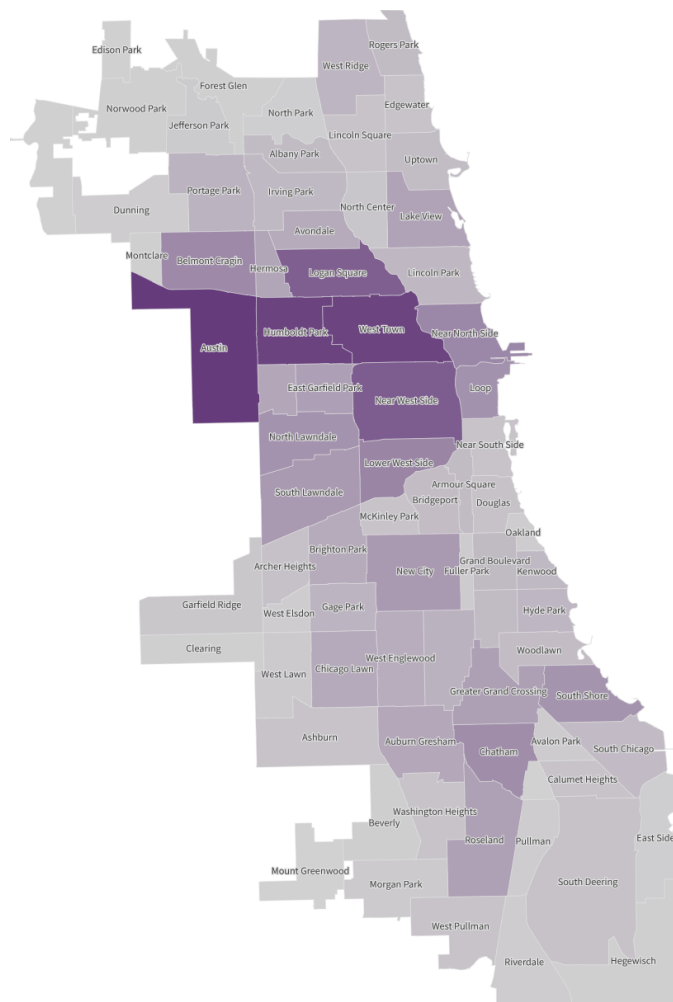
Police Blotter



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

Communities in and around downtown rank among the city's top 10 for robberies during the spike
Robbery totals from July 1, 2023 through Nov. 26, 2023.

1 301



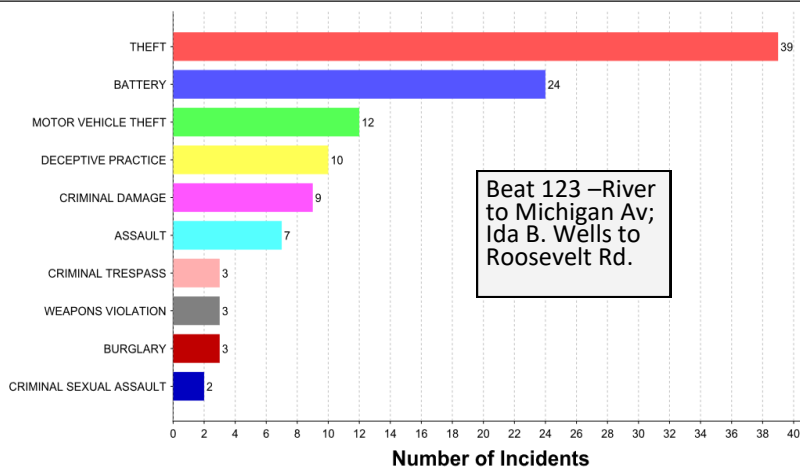
Source: City of Chicago

Note: Robbery totals include attempted robberies and exclude carjackings and attempted carjackings.

Visualization: Alden Loury/WBEZ

Report Date: 15-Feb-2024
Report Time: 14:42:38
Produced By: Information Services
Division: PC0BY17
Run By:

Top Ten Crimes From 01-Jan-2024 To 30-Jan-2024 On Beat 0123



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

Burglars steal ATM after crashing car into South Loop currency exchange, police say: VIDEO

Television film crews for 'Chicago Fire' were setting up nearby, witnesses said.



By [Jessica D'Onofrio](#) and [Maher Kawash](#)
Thursday, January 11, 2024

Live streaming newscasts, breaking news, weather & original, local programming.

Burglars stole an ATM out of a currency exchange early Thursday in the South Loop while film crews set up nearby for the television show "Chicago Fire."

WLS

CHICAGO (WLS) -- Video showed several people yank an ATM out of a currency exchange business early Thursday in the South Loop while film crews were setting up for a TV show nearby.

The crash-and-grab burglary happened around 6:22 a.m. on the corner of Jefferson and Roosevelt., Chicago police said.

The video shows how multiple burglars picked up a heavy machine and loaded it into the trunk of an SUV, before they sped away, leaving a Jeep Cherokee behind. Police said there were two suspects.

Apparent thieves were caught on video stealing an ATM after crashing a car into a Western Union on Jefferson and Roosevelt in the South Loop Thursday.

The Jeep was used to back into the 24-hour Western Union storefront and smash two large front windows so the thieves could get in, police said.

Frequent customers of the currency exchange were surprised to hear about the crime.

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2024/1/11/24035368/thieves-take-atm-crash-grab-south-loop-currency-exchange>

<https://cwbchicago.com/>

Real Estate Transactions

\$280,000
1143 S PLYMOUTH CT 506
1/5/24

\$308,000
732 FINANCIAL PL 706
12/26/23

\$495,000
1503 S STATE ST 500
12/26/23

\$235,000
1322 S PRAIRIE AVE 505
12/26/23

\$400,000
1111 S WABASH AVE 1211
12/20/23

\$260,000
40 E 9TH ST 1401
12/19/23

\$374,000
727 S DEARBORN ST 810
12/19/23

\$130,000
740 S FEDERAL ST 403
12/18/23

\$260,000
5 E 14TH ST 1507
12/18/23

\$415,000
801 S PLYMOUTH CT Q
12/12/23

\$765,000
1160 S MICHIGAN AVE 2407
12/11/23

\$390,000
161 W HARRISON ST 802
12/11/23

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