

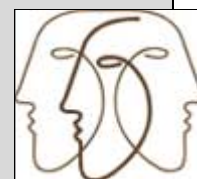


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Stress Relief

How do you spell relief? We have been doing some museum therapy. It's good to get away from the news and stimulate the brain with some culture and music at the Jazz Showcase.

In this issue: an excellent article from New City "Reimagining Downtown Chicago's Shopping Streets." Sometimes you have to look at other cities for inspiration. What fun if just a few of these ideas came to fruition.

Second Presbyterian Church in the South Loop is restoring another Tiffany stain glass window. With the help of the Friends of Second Presbyterian who raise the money.

And Columbia College hired Shantay Bolton to take over as President of our neighborhood college.

March 30, 2025

Vol. 13, No.4

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Beth Finke
Will be back.



Marianne Goss:
Avoiding the news hasn't
calmed me down

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Our President,
Our Enemy
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Say it ain't so, Lou!



My stump speech. If you want restaurants to thrive and survive, you have to dine there. The best sidewalk café.

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JAZZ SHOWCASE

Mon, Mar 31, 7pm.....	Roosevelt University CCPA
Tue, Apr 1, 8pm.....	WDCB 90.9FM presents UI Jazz Faculty & Special Guest Ingrid Jensen
Wed, Apr 2, 8pm.....	Columbia College Latin Jazz Ensemble
Thu-Sat, Apr 3-5, 8pm & 10pm.....	Ben Wolfe Trio
Sun, Apr 6, 4pm & 8pm.....	Ben Wolfe Trio
Mon, Apr 7, 7pm.....	Roosevelt University CCPA
Tue, Apr 8, 8pm & 10pm.....	Dakarai Barclay Sextet
Wed, Apr 9, 5pm.....	Jazz Lines Jam Session
Thu-Sat, Apr 10-12, 8pm & 10pm.....	Ben Paterson Organ Trio featuring Bobby Broom
Sun, Apr 13, 4pm & 8pm.....	Ben Paterson Organ Trio featuring Bobby Broom
Mon, Apr 14, 8pm & 10pm.....	Steve Knight CD Release
Tue, Apr 15, 8pm & 10pm.....	Quartet D'vine
Wed, Apr 16, 8pm & 10pm.....	Bob Lark Septet
Thu-Sat, Apr 17-19, 8pm & 10pm.....	Vibraphonist Thaddeus Tukes Quintet
Sun, Apr 20, 4pm & 8pm.....	Vibraphonist Thaddeus Tukes Quintet



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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

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Jaqi Green

Off. 312-922-5888

Cell 847-542-1340

899 S. Plymouth Ct.

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JaqiGIInt@gmail.com



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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.



Avoiding the news hasn't calmed me down *Sincerely, Marianne*

By **Marianne Goss** March 13, 2025

A few months ago I [wrote](#) about trying to avoid “a state of constant agitation over the news from Washington.” The plan involved differentiating between essential and nonessential stories.

Skipping over a lot of news hasn't make me calmer. I've felt similar to the Germans who ignored Hitler's villainy.

But what to do? Activists urge telling our representatives to obstruct Trump. My representatives are Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and Congressman Danny Davis, all Democrats. What good would contacting them do?

Then I read that some on the left think that Durbin, who voted to confirm five of Trump's appointees, is too lackluster an administration opponent. I was persuaded to write him:

*Dear Senator Durbin,
I urge you to do everything you can to oppose the Trump agenda. Please don't say there's little the minor-ity can do. Mitch McConnell thwarted President Obama's agenda with a smaller minority than Senate Democrats have now.*

This is not a time for nonpartisan civility. I read a quote from one of your Democratic colleagues: “I think they [the public] watch us supporting his policies and his nominees and come to the conclusion it must not be that bad.”

I am afraid of where the country is going but don't know what to do except write my elected leaders. You, the #2 Democratic senator, know what tools you have. Please use them to convince the nation — not just Illinois — how bad it is. Please act like the country is on fire.

*Sincerely,
Marianne Goss, Chicago*

For a couple of days I felt good that I'd finally done something. Then I read that some representatives are put off by the avalanche of calls and emails. “Don't call the Democrats,” Rep. Jonathan Jackson of Illinois's first district was quoted by Axios. “You can call a Republican senator from another state. We're all federal elected officials.”

Call Republicans? That seems even more futile.

This Wednesday longtime political commentator Laura Washington wrote in the *Chicago Tribune*:

“It is time for Democrats to stop the gnashing of teeth over Trump. Cool the rhetoric. Get with a program that is in sync with real voters. Not the people on the extreme, but the majority. ... Gavin Newsom, [California's] uber-ambitious governor, has finally realized that standing up for transgender women who want to play in women's sports is a losing battle. ... Then there is the issue of student loan forgiveness. Tell me how the so-called party of the working class benefits from a policy that leans heavily white-collar. ... And for the progressive Democrats who support universal basic income: Fairness, you say. Tell that to the millions of regular people working at fast-food joints and factories who must go to work every day to earn their keep. No free checks for them. It sends a message to those workers that the value of their labor doesn't tip the scales.”

Washington's views are those of the pragmatist Democrats who think the party should prioritize working-class issues. Axios says that pragmatics and progressives are splitting the party over how to resist the Trump administration. The progressive faction has been urging senators and representatives to be more obstructive. My letter to Durbin reflected the progressive view.

Then came the current debate in the Senate over the continuing resolution to fund federal agencies through September. If they vote yes, Democrats would give Trump (and Musk) even more latitude to decide how funds are spent. If they vote no, they could be blamed for shutting down the government. Centrists argue for voting yes, progressives for voting no. Would I still tell Durbin that “this is not the time for nonpartisan civility”?

Now I feel more confused and helpless than before. If the party leaders can't agree on what to do, how is the average person supposed to know?

[COMMENT](#)

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



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We Do Not Part by Han Kang and translated by E. Yaewon and Paige Aniyah Morris

"A light snow was falling." Thus Nobel Laureate Han Kang begins her novel, **We Do Not Part**, describing what she sees: "thousands of black tree trunks...their heads lopped off... huddling in the snow." Like the narrator, we shudder at what they could be. An apparition? A dream? A memory? "Are they graves?" Kyungha wonders. This vision reappears to the narrator so often she is driven to memorialize it. She recruits her friend, Inseon, a documentary filmmaker and wood-worker, to bring her vision to life as an art installation. But, they agree, they must wait until it snows—as it did then—when the soldiers came. Snow is a character in this eerie, surreal novel. It blinds us, and we must wipe our eyes often; it confuses us so that we do not know in which direction we are going; it seduces us to lie down in its softness and rest—unaware of our risk of freezing. It silences everything. "Snow has an unreality to it. Was this because of its pace or its beauty?" For Kyungha, it brought "an accompanying clarity....What was and wasn't important was made distinct." To her...but not to us. We are both confused and absorbed by Kang's magical writing. The snow blurs boundaries so that time and beings can slip past and back. Part of our bewilderment is because most of us do not (but will now) understand the context of Kyungha's vision: the summary winter massacre of tens of thousands of Koreans: old women, little babies, young girls and their beaux, men and women in their prime—patriots who fought for Korea's independence from Japan—none of them tried, all considered a risk, as South Korea warred against the Communists to the

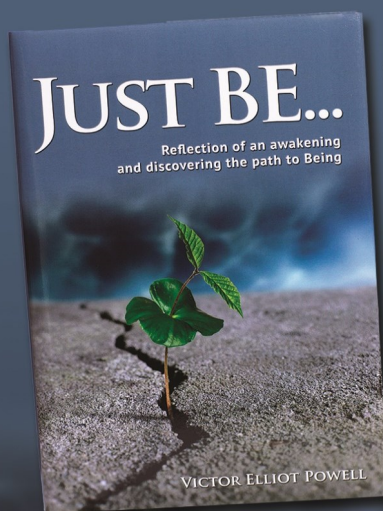
North. Their own countrymen shot, netted, drowned, raped and murdered them; burnt their homes; then left them undersea, down mines, or in mass graves, as US Commanders looked away, and history forgot for generations. Kang does not give us a clear history lesson: she hints, alludes, suggests—through her nightmares, conversations with Inseon, old witness statements, long-buried government documents, letters from dead relatives. Did it happen decades ago, or is it happening now to the two friends? The author tells us that before Kyungha and Inseon can complete this project, they each ask the other to do an almost insurmountable and extremely dangerous task. Inseon has already suffered; Kyungha willingly undertakes a mission so difficult we wonder if she will—or if she did—die. Kang's brilliant and sensuous writing allows us to feel the pain of a needle piercing sutured fingertips; smell the burning wick of a candle by which a woman, (living or dead? real or imagined?) led her friend through a dark yard near the site of the atrocities; hear the soundless flapping of wings in a house and see a bird's shadow behind the light is as big as a toddler; smell the saltwater entering a woman's shoes and shiver at the ice crystals forming on the inside of her sleeves. Kang's gorgeous writing keeps us vested in knowing, yearning to understand, and fearing the results as she honors both friendship and memory. Tread carefully.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park / March, 2025



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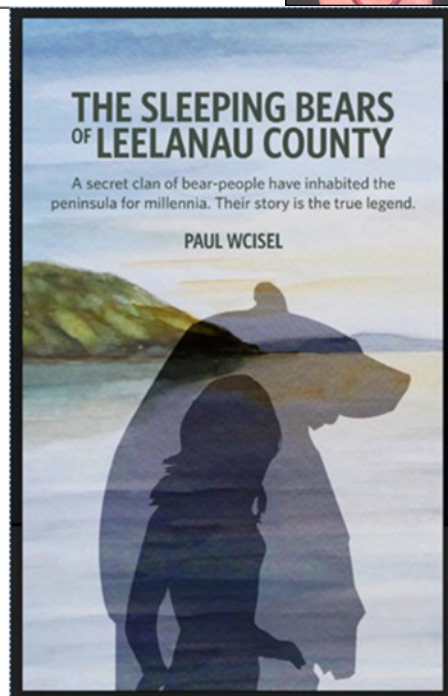


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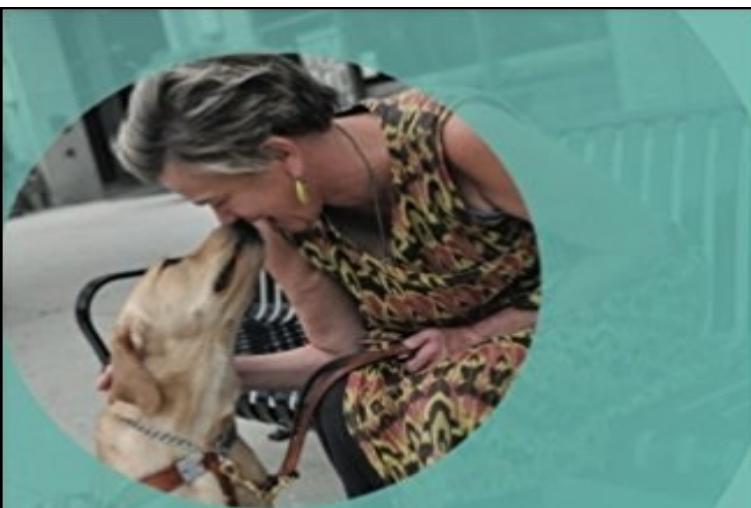
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GREG BORZO



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what a blind teacher learned from
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Beth Finke

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OPINION

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Our President, Our Enemy

Regan Burke

March 13, 2025



At Saturday morning coffee in downtown Chicago, a friend and naturalized citizen joined our small group. They work (or by now, worked) at a federal agency where half the workforce had just been fired.

“Are you next?” I asked.

“I wrote a list of things I can do to make money. Nothing to do with my profession but at least I have options,” they said, “I have EU passport and know some languages. My European colleagues are already strengthening connections between their countries. There’ll be jobs.”

Watching TV on February 28, I was like a six-year old sitting cross-legged in front of a life-size screen expecting it to throw itself at me. The Trump-Vance shakedown of Ukraine President Zelensky in the Oval Office presented TV reporters and viewers with a clear and present danger. The US just changed sides. We would now be the puppet ally of Russia’s Vladimir Putin. The reporting immobilized me. What happened to Putin the mortal enemy? Another historical norm thrown onto the MAGA heap of used-to-be’s. Cafe societies the next day ratcheted up conversations about how to leave the country.

Our President was now our enemy.

How I want to write more about my friend! Their story about growing up behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War intrigues this nosy Midwesterner. But I fear exposing my friend to gotcha algorithms that worm around the internet. I even write “they/them” so the sex can’t be identified.

They said, “Big difference between here and country of my childhood. Before the breakup of USSR, you’d be killed if you wrote forbidden words.”

Alexander Dugin, a friend of Putin’s, on the day of Trump’s 2024 presidential victory, proclaimed that “traditionalism won. Globalism lost. A victory for Russia.”

Globalism has been the hallmark of the devil in fundamentalist Christianity since before Jimmy Carter’s presidency. At my small fundamentalist Christian church in the 1970s, a friend pulled me aside one Sunday during coffee

hour. She said Jimmy Carter’s White House Conference on the Family was diabolic. We were both former hippies. We grew cabbage in our back yards. We made our own yogurt. We balanced our immune systems with apple cider vinegar. I thought I knew her.

A Christian convert, she’d been exposed to the idea that Carter would lay out his progressive American family values. Then spread those ideals around the world through programs like USAID.

“Carter is promoting globalism,” she said. “He wants all families to think like him.”

Preposterous? Yeah. I thought so too.

New York Times columnist, David French, is the original Never-Trumper. An evangelical Christian, French teaches history and the constitution. He explains Trumpism from a biblical point of view. Prophesying Christians, Pentecostals and traditionalists believe the Devil is the force behind globalism. Prophesied in the Bible. These Christians tell Trump he’s God’s man to lead America out of the spiritual darkness of globalism, especially because he survived a gunshot to the head. Trump’s leadership in anti-globalism, divvying up the world pie between the four leaders, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, is victory over the Devil. Oh.Yeah.

Long before Trump, when insecurity and doubt began settling in my young joints, I was desperate for certainty. I fell for these biblical prophesies, these absolutes. I sobered up, married and mothered a boy. I worked in a stain glass factory and had a garden. Despite these, I fell into a years-long fever dreams submitting to charismatic prophesying men. When I woke, a Presbyterian preacher told me doubt was good, certainty wasn’t. Putting church friends behind me, I rejected the prophecies of Christian fundamentalism.

Strangely, I thought everyone else did too.



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

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Second Wind: Reimagining Downtown Chicago's Shopping Streets

by [Todd Hieggelke](#) | February 12, 2025

Part three in a series on the future of downtown Chicago.

[Part one.](#)

[Part two.](#)

[Order the issue.](#)

Downtown Chicago's two most iconic shopping streets are flagging, struggling to reinvent themselves in the wake of the pandemic and the rise of ecommerce. While Team Culture envisions downtown as a vast Cultural Stadium, State Street and Michigan Avenue merit special attention: They are the central corridors of the city, places from which the street life of downtown emanates, and where both lifelong Chicagoans and "experiential collectors" determine the vitality of the city.

There's talk of street-level updates, like Gensler's [Michigan Avenue proposal](#) or the [Elevate State initiative](#), but beyond more sidewalk cafés, better walkability and new places to linger, the spaces that line these streets need to be reimagined.

Much like Lou Raizin searched the world for ideas for the Cultural Stadium, Chicago can look to other cities for inspiration: the covered passages of Paris lined with shops that evoke the city's past, the IKEA stores in downtown San Francisco or Toronto. The "shopping as experience" exemplified in areas like Tokyo's Shibuya District. (Death of retail? The Tower Records logo hangs atop its *eight-story* store over the district's Miyashita Park.) In London and Paris, the historic department stores are treated like immutable facts of the city's life—no one in London is wondering when Harrods might shutter its doors.

The city's got to realize everything it's got, and begin to use it.

Six ideas for State Street

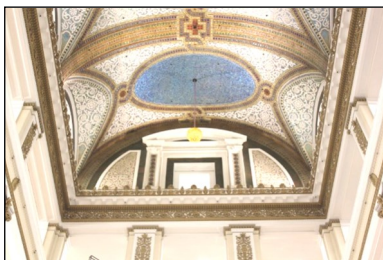
Local Ownership for the Marshall Field's Store

Marshall Field's was perhaps State Street's greatest institution. While Macy's recent renovation has lifted the space a little, its absorption some two decades ago is still felt across the shopping experience, from halfhearted Christmas windows to plastic shopping bags.

A local owner can do what a company with 500 stores cannot—concentrate on making the State Street Marshall Field's a singular destination, leaning into the experiential side of retail as well as the culture of the city it calls home. The Marshall Field's of Chicago feels distinct from Tokyo's Isetan and Paris' Galeries Lafayette.

An owner who markets the store like a local institution, who recreates the magic of The Walnut Room during the holidays across more time and in more spaces, and who brings back the emerald green paper shopping bags might show us how the future of America's flagship department stores can resemble their pasts. And if major luxury brands like LVMH and Kering [buying buildings on prime retail stretches](#) outright is any indication, I expect they'd be rewarded for their efforts.

Perhaps the downtown department store will become the new sports team—a chance to be a steward of the city's fabric.



Marshall Field's State Street interior/Photo: Todd Hieggelke

A Downtown IKEA at State & Ida B. Wells

South State Street could become a hub of value-oriented home retailers, a complement to the traditional higher-end stores around Merchandise Mart. That would suit State Street's historical identity as the everyman's downtown shopping street.

IKEA would make a great anchor, attracting shoppers from across the city, including nearby students and downtown residents, and acting as a catalyst that might convince other home stores to invest in nearby space. Possibilities include everyone from MUJI to Room & Board, as well as local retailers like Foursided.

We typically think of IKEA as a suburban store with vast parking and loading areas, but the company has recently experimented with smaller-format downtown stores oriented around portable objects for purchase on site, and furniture delivered at home later. They opened this format in downtown San Francisco in August 2023.

The landmark Second Leiter Building at 401 South State, designed by skyscraper pioneer William Le Baron Jenney, would make an ideal location. Most recently the site of Robert Morris University, and before that a Sears department store, it's currently vacant. A back-of-napkin estimate shows they should be able to execute this project with a smaller budget than their downtown San Francisco project, with considerably more space to sublet.

A Miniatures Museum for the Consumers Building

After earmarking \$52 million to tear down the Century & Consumers Buildings in 2022, pushback from the preservation community led the federal government's General Services Administration, which owns the buildings, [to make a turn](#) this past summer, announcing they would instead redevelop the towers. Still, their future remains uncertain—restrictive redevelopment guidelines prohibit residential or hotel uses, as well as any sightlines into the neighboring Dirksen federal courthouse.

The restriction on uses should be reconsidered for the Century Building. Its south and west façades are brick walls, with no possible sightlines into the courthouse; its only windows face east onto State Street and north out to Adams Street. A fire escape on its north façade was the only vantage point with a sightline into the courthouse, but it's recently been removed.

The Consumers Building is trickier in this respect, with windows facing out in every direction, including ones toward the courthouse. Still, there are uses that wouldn't require sunlight, allowing the windows to be blocked off: Preservation Chicago has proposed an archives center, one devoted to the city's religious organizations. The Trove, proposed by Team Culture, is envisioned as a place where the city's museums might display artworks from their collections beyond their main galleries. That might fit into the building as well, and bring more vibrancy than an archives center could on its own. [CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE REST OF THE STORY

NEW ORLEANS BEAU

Ages 21 and up
SATURDAY, APRIL 05
Show: 9pm
\$25

[Buddy Guy's Legends](#)

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

Acoustic: TBA — 5:30-8:00PM

Opener: Bernard Crump – 9:00 – 10:00

Headliner: New Orleans Beau

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.

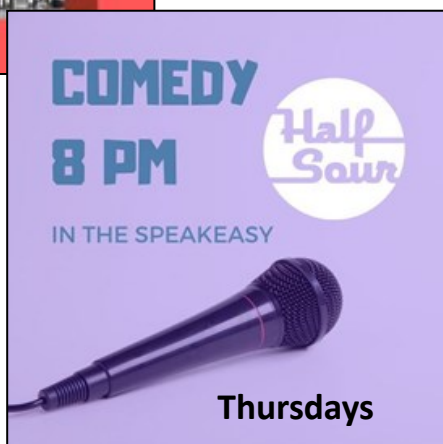
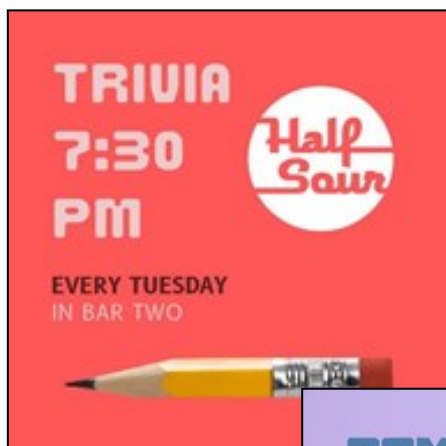


700 S Wabash Ave

Tickets are available at the door
after 5:00PM
21+ After 8:00PM



Clark and Polk Streets



Bingo with Betty

Last Wednesday of the month



The Empire Strips Back celebrates a resurgence of burlesque, while delivering a fun and rowdy experience for fans of the art form as well as the classic film series. Ariana Bindman of SF Gate said, "Popularized in the U.S. in the 19th century, burlesque blurs the line between comedy and adult entertainment, incorporating camp and theater in playful strip routines."

[**BUY TICKETS**](#)



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Book Clubs



Harold Washington Library Center Young at Heart: Short Story Discussion

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

12:00PM – 1:30PM

Harold Washington Library Center

Senior adults! Drop in for an afternoon short story discussion hosted by the Assistive Resources and Talking Book Center. We will listen collectively to a short story, then invite everyone to share their thoughts and impressions as we enjoy the company of fellow readers. No registration needed

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Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 747-4300



On the south facing wall of the Transportation Building, a lone window washer on a bosun's chair.
Photo March 11, 2025

CHICAGO COMPOSERS' CONSORTIUM and YARN/WIRE | New Music for 2 Pianos, 2 Percussion April 5 @ 7:30 pm 9:00 pm



[PURCHASE TICKETS \\$25](#)

Chicago Composers' Consortium is thrilled to welcome Yarn/Wire, a phenomenal New York quartet of two pianists and two percussionists, in a program of World Premieres written expressly for Yarn/Wire. Music of five Chicago composers plus the Chicago premiere of Steve Reich's iconic 'Quartet', which Reich calls "one of the more complex I have composed."

pianoforte chicago

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

Historic South Loop Church's 134-Year-Old Stained Glass Windows Getting 'Labor Intensive' Restoration

by [Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) March 25, 2025 Updated March 26, 2025

SOUTH LOOP — A 134-year-old stained glass window belonging to one of Chicago's most storied places of worship is being removed for the first time.

A crew started delicately removing the 10,000-piece window at Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 S. Michigan Ave., this week in a process that was expected to take two days. The 1893 stained glass jeweled window — designed by the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company — will be placed in a specially designed shipping crate and driven to Troy, New York, where it will be restored over a 14-month period.

Venturella Studio owner Tom Venturella is heading the \$700,000 project. It's the third window he's restored for the church, and the job never gets old, he said.

"It's the joy you get from seeing how excited others are to see the window restored," said Venturella, who has worked on projects and forged friendships at Second Presbyterian since 2006. "It's a gift back to everybody here so that they can enjoy it even more."

The window is 16 feet high and is 8 and a half feet wide, with "jewels" that are rough-cut chunks of glass designed to capture and refract the light like a diamond. The jeweled window is one of nine in the church designed by famed stained glass artist Louis Comfort Tiffany's firm, and it is the fourth window to be restored.

Before shipping the piece to Chicago, Tiffany exhibited the window in his New York studio in August 1893.

The restoration of the window, donated by Marshall Field, will be a "labor intensive" undertaking, Venturella said.

Once every piece reaches his workspace, Venturella and his team will photograph its easel, interior and exterior with transmitted and reflected light to make a record of what is before them, he said. They'll also make rubbings of every panel, front and back, and duplicate them.

"All the pieces are numbered so that you know how this puzzle goes back together again," Venturella said.



Tom Venturella (left) will be restoring a 134-year-old Tiffany stained glass window for the next 14 months. To the right, a window his company previously restored at the church. Credit: Jamie Nesbitt Golden/Block Club Chicago, Friends of Historic Second Church

Second Presbyterian Church in the South Loop is in the process of restoring the century-old stained windows inside their sanctuary. Credit: Jamie Nesbitt Golden / Block Club Chicago

Each piece of glass will be extracted from its lead framing and cleaned individually, Venturella said. He said his team uses a special epoxy material to edge-glue broken pieces "because I want to retain as much original material as possible."

Linda Miller, president of nonprofit Friends of Second Presbyterian, described restoring key parts of the 151-year-old church as an ongoing process. Several other windows in the sanctuary and in other parts of the building are in need of care, she said.

As a longtime church docent, Miller has witnessed the awe from tourists who are visibly touched every time they step into the sanctuary — an experience that drew her to the church as well.

"I came in for a tour probably 15 years ago, hottest day in the summer, and this is not air conditioned, but it still felt like a place of serenity and coolness," Miller said. "I was just awestruck, and it just pulled me in. I've been working on giving tours and raising money ever since." See more photos, click below

[CLICK HERE](#)



[https://
blockclubchicago.org/](https://blockclubchicago.org/)

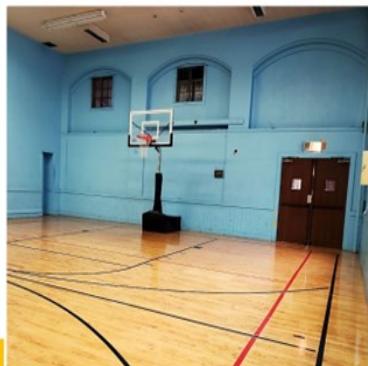


PHOTO: Michelle Jaldin



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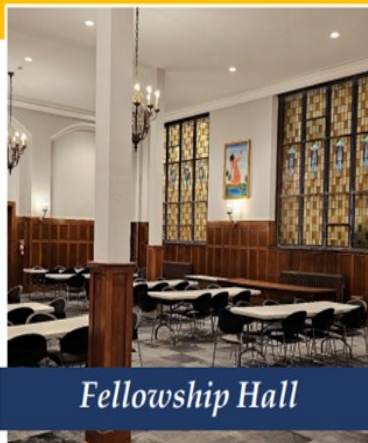


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Exclusive: Columbia's president-elect pledges transparency when she takes over this summer

By [Patience Hurston](#) and [Vivian Richey](#)

March 17, 2025

Columbia president-elect Shantay Bolton pledged to make student engagement a priority and to help lead the college through a "healing process" following the fiscal challenges of the past several years.

"What sets us apart is the way our community has come together to face these challenges head on. It has demonstrated resilience, adaptability and I think, a shared commitment to the future of our college that is exciting," Bolton said.

In an exclusive interview with the Chronicle on Monday, March 17, Bolton said that she is committed to transparency. "My goal is to make sure that we have the right tone and right culture where everyone feels respected, heard and that their contributions are valued."

The former executive vice president and chief business officer at Georgia Institute of Technology, will be Columbia's new president and CEO on July 1. She told the Chronicle that she plans to attend the annual Manifest Arts Festival and commencement in May.

"I am a person of no sudden moves unless they are critical and essential," she told the Chronicle.

Bolton is the first woman in nearly 90 years and the first woman of color to lead the college, which is now a Hispanic-Serving Institution. Columbia's student body is half BIPOC.

"To me, Columbia isn't just a college, but it's a place where students from all walks of life can find their voice, can hone in on their craft and really have an opportunity to turn their passions into careers," Bolton said.

Bolton was the executive vice president and chief business officer at Georgia Tech from 2023 until she [stepped down](#) in early March. She will take over at Columbia on July 1 from interim President and CEO Jerry Tarrer who served in the role after former President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim left last summer after 13 years.

A presidential search for Kim's replacement has been underway since the summer.

Asked if Tarrer would return to CFO, the position he also holds, Bolton said, "I would be confident to say it's likely he will go back to being in the CFO role. As I onboard, there may be changes."

"I would contend that it is not uncommon for individuals to transition when there are presidential changes, but most certainly, I am personally looking forward to getting to know and to work in partnership with the leaders that are in place," Bolton said.

Tarrer welcomed Bolton in his statement to the Chronicle "with great enthusiasm" and looked forward to "continue to work alongside her to ensure our legacy of producing creative industry leaders continues and is amplified."



Courtesy of Georgia Institute of Technology

"I am honored to have served as Interim President for Columbia College Chicago, and I want to thank the Board of Trustees for entrusting me with this role. My goal during this time was not only to be a good steward for this institution but also position us on a path for growth. I am both humbled and inspired by our students, faculty, and staff and this experience has only deepened my love commitment to our community," Tarrer said.

Bolton comes from a significantly larger and different institution than Columbia College. Georgia Tech is a public university with a fall enrollment of 20,592 undergraduate students. It is a premiere research institution with a graduation rate of more than 90 percent.

By comparison, Columbia is a small media arts college with a graduation rate of about 41 percent, according to the school's Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

"I think we're in a critical moment," Bolton said. "There is no better place in higher education right now than Columbia College Chicago to help to set the model for how we will navigate our way through this."

She comes at a time when Columbia is facing a [\\$17 million deficit](#) and declining enrollment, [staff](#) and [faculty layoffs](#) and an historic overhaul of academic programs that merged or eliminated nearly half of the school's majors. Like all colleges and universities, Columbia is also facing threats to its DEI programs under the Trump administration.

Georgia Tech just announced that it would stop its DEI-related programs because of the Trump administration's federal directives, the student newspaper, the *Tech*, [reported](#).

In early March, Georgia state lawmakers [failed](#) to pass a bill that would also have cut state funding or state-administered federal funding for public schools or universities with DEI programs.

Around a third of Georgia Tech's students are Asian, and its Hispanic population is less than 10 percent. Like Columbia, its faculty is majority white.

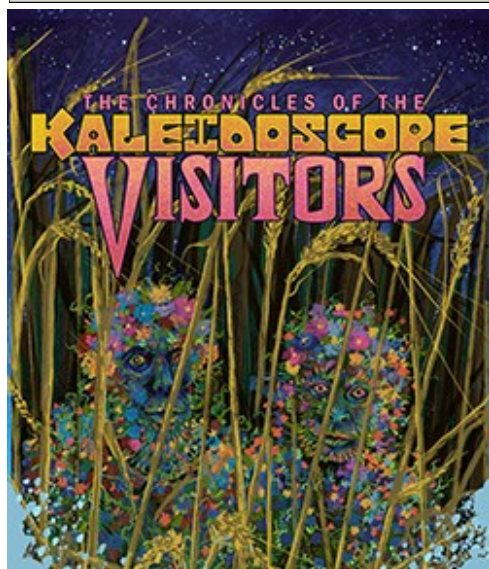
Trump's attacks on colleges and universities come as all institutions face a "demographic cliff" this fall because of declining birth rates that followed the 2007 recession.

Copy edited by Matt Brady and Manuel Nocera

THE COLUMBIA
CHRONICLE

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE REST
OF THE STORY

Theatre. . . . In the South Loop



The Chronicles of the Kaleidoscope Visitors

by Omer Abbas Salem
directed by Katrina Dion
Sister Fibonacci and her family live on a secluded winter island, growing food for the town on the mainland. When the island is visited by two green creatures with the ability to make sunflowers grow in the snow, their lives take an unexpected turn. Can Fibonacci save her new friends from being exploited for their powers? *The Chronicles of the Kaleidoscope Visitors* encourages keeping curiosity alive and standing up for what is right.

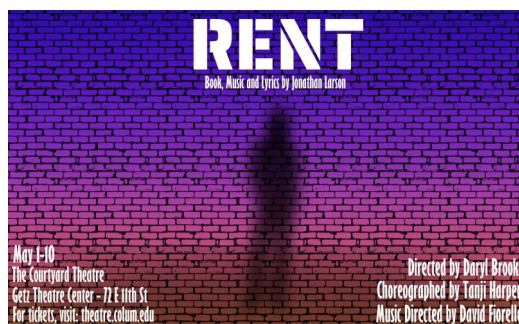
May 15—May 31, 2025

[TICKETS](#)

[TEACHER'S GUIDE](#)

DePaul Merle Ruskin Theatre
60 E Balbo Drive

DePaul University



Rent

Directed by Daryl Brooks

Choreographed by Tanji Harper

Music Directed by David Fiorello

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

May 1-10, 2025

A year in the life of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS.

PERFORMANCE DATES

Thursday, May 1st - 7:30 PM (Preview)
Friday, May 2nd - 7:30 PM (Opening)
Saturday, May 3rd - 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM (ASL)
Wednesday, May 7th - 7:30 PM
Thursday, May 8th - 7:30 PM
Friday, May 9th - 7:30 PM
Saturday, May 10th - 2:00 PM

[tickets](#)

The Getz Theatre Center | 72 E. 11th Street Chicago, IL 60605 | Courtyard Theatre

Columbia College



Into the Woods is a 1986 musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 7:30PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 7:30PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 7:30PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 7:30PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2PM

A poignant exploration of human nature, desires, and the interconnectedness of our lives, wrapped in the familiar yet transformative framework of classic fairytales. With thought-provoking themes that explore the complexity of morality, parenting and legacy, growth and transformation balanced with humor and whimsy. We may journey through the dark of the woods, but as the lyric beautifully captures "No one is alone."

Miller Studio Theatre at Roosevelt University

425 South Wabash Avenue 9th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

Roosevelt University



ALDERMANIC FORUM: LET'S TALK

APRIL 22ND • 7:00–8:30PM
GRACE PLACE: 637 S Dearborn

It's not easy to lodge concerns or compliments when our Near South Community is carved into five wards.

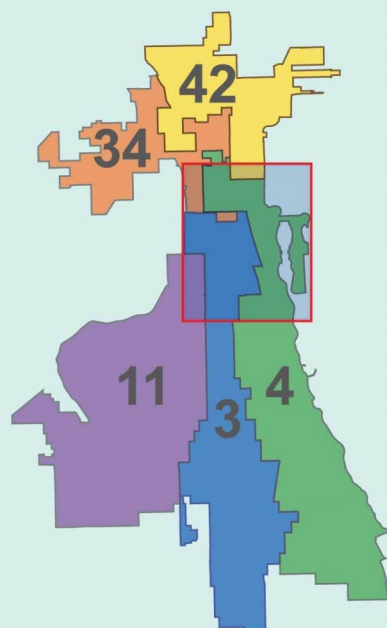
JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT

- How Alders can work across ward lines to cohesively represent our community
- The latest on summer events impacting our community



FREE but please RSVP to help us plan:
scan the QR code or go to

bit.ly/AldForum422



Ald. Pat Dowell, 3rd



Ald. Lamont Robinson, 4th



Ald. Bill Conway, 34th



Ald. Nicole Lee, 11th

CO-MODERATORS; BRANDON POPE, WCIU-TV
MARJ HALPERIN, ONE COMMUNITY NEAR SOUTH

One Community Near South is a grassroots group focused on strengthening our residents' collective voice. We live where major sporting events, festivals, demonstrations, and celebrations happen. We're also a neighborhood, home to tens of thousands, seeking greater impact with our many elected officials. Learn more at <https://onecommunitysl.com/>, and join our meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month.



Bar Louie in Printers Row is now permanently closed. Credit: Provided.

Bar Louie Suddenly Closes Dearborn Station Spot In Printers Row

The restaurant is one of three Bar Louie locations to abruptly close over the weekend.

by [Jamie Nesbitt Golden](#) March 25, 2025

PRINTERS ROW — Another restaurant has left the South Loop.

Patrons looking to dine at Bar Louie Monday inside Dearborn Station, 47 W. Polk St., were greeted by a sign on the door informing them the restaurant was permanently closed.

The reason for the abrupt closure is unknown, as representatives from the restaurant could not be reached. The national chain closed two locations in the Detroit area over the weekend due to poor sales, [according to ABC Detroit](#).

It's the third spate of closures in five years for the chain. Outposts in Hyde Park and River North were among 38 locations closed in 2020 [when parent company BL Restaurant Operations, LLC filed for bankruptcy](#).

There are three remaining restaurants in the Chicago area, including a University Village location that opened in 2016.

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2025/03/25/bar-louie-suddenly-closes-dearborn-station-spot-in-printers-row/>



<https://blockclubchicago.org/>

Residential conversion at 1006 S. Michigan approved by Plan Commission

The eight-story office building would become 49 apartments

March 21, 2025, 7:00AM Lukas Kugler [0 Comments](#)



The Chicago Plan Commission has approved a planned residential conversion of the timber loft building at 1006 S. Michigan. Planned by JK Equities and Oak Capitals, the project is located directly south of the [new 1000M development](#) by JK Equities, Oak Capitals, and Time Equities along S. Michigan Ave between E. 9th St and E. 11th St.

Designed by FitzGerald, the 102-foot-tall post and beam loft office building would be converted into 49 new apartments with ground floor retail space. Both the retail space and residential entry will front S. Michigan Ave with a bike room and loading dock along the alley for residents.

The upper seven floors will feature seven apartments per floor with a mix of 21 one-beds and 28 two-beds. To meet ARO requirements, five of the apartments will be affordable and a fee in-lieu of \$1.12 million will be paid to cover the remaining obligation of five units.

The developers are seeking an amendment to the site's Planned Development to allow residential as a permitted use in the building's subarea to allow for the proposed conversion. With approval from the Chicago Plan Commission secured, the \$14.5 million development now needs final approvals from the Committee on Zoning and City Council.

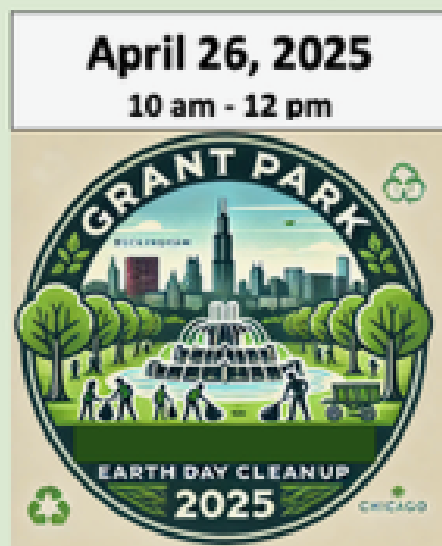
[CLICK HERE](#) for more renderings and floor plans

URBANIZE

<https://chicago.urbanize.city/>



Grant Park Earth Day Clean-Up



There is No Plan B

Rotary Districts around the Great Lakes will conduct cleanup projects in the Great Lakes watershed to celebrate Earth Day and the Seventh Area of Focus for the Rotary Foundation.

With this in mind, the Rotary Club of Chicago Citywide Service and the Grant Park Advisory Council have coordinated a partnership with the Chicago Park District, South Loop Neighbors & the Friends of the Park.

Volunteers will be spending the morning cleaning up the front yard for the City of Chicago, Grant Park! Trash bags and gloves will be provided.

Volunteers can sign up at:



Alternative sign-up method:

<https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77814704&NoCaptcha>

For information or large group sign-ups, please contact Jim Wales at

Jim.rotary6450passport@gmail.com



Woke up today, dragged a comb across my head ... and looked out the window and saw a crystal palace. Freezing rain over night with a dusting of powdered sugar.

Photo: Dearborn Park March 19th, 2025.



We hope you are considering joining us for our 15th Annual [Leadership Celebration](#)! This event is a powerful reminder of our shared commitment to **Housing for All, Hope for the Future**, and the belief that everyone deserves a place to call home. We look forward to not only highlighting the achievements of advocates in the community but also providing an opportunity for you to connect with like-minded individuals who share your passion for creating positive change.

As someone who values the importance of safe, affordable housing for all, your presence would be a powerful addition to this celebration. This gathering will be an inspiring chance to hear firsthand accounts from advocates who have made a significant impact in the housing sector and to learn from those we are serving about the work that we are doing.

We would be honored to have you join us in celebrating these advocates and the progress we continue to make together.

Here are the event details you should know:

We look forward to celebrating with you! If you have any questions, please contact the development team at development@voail.org.

- When: Thursday, May 15th from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
- Where: The University Club, 76 E Monroe St. Chicago
- Who: YOU!

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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*

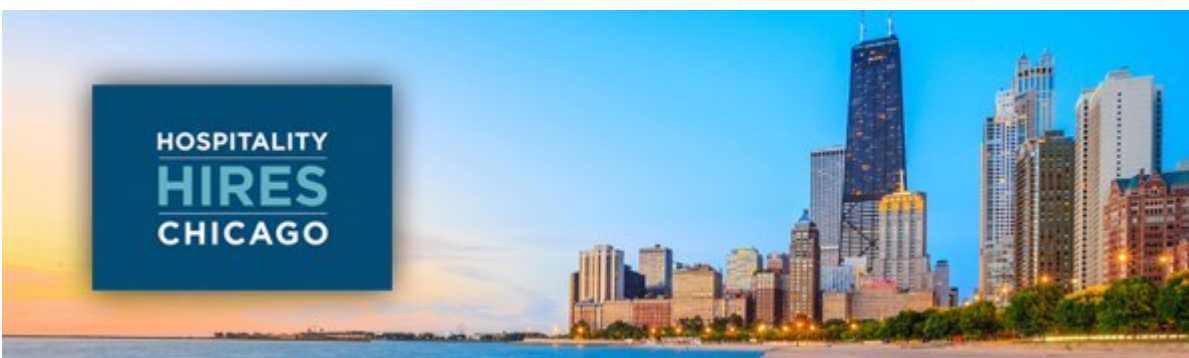
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Near South Planning Board is excited to partner with Choose Chicago, The Magnificent Mile Association, Illinois Restaurant Association, Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association, Chicago Loop Alliance, Origami Works Foundation, Cook County and the City of Chicago, and the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (The Partnership) to host the 8th Annual Hospitality Hires Chicago (HHC) event, a Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership production!

Hospitality Hires Chicago is an event for employers and pre-screened job seekers to meet and interview. Working with Chicago and Cook County's premier workforce agencies, HHC provides employers with an opportunity to take a strategic approach to finding your next best hire and for job seekers to find their next best employment opportunity.

How to Participate: Your company provides The Partnership with a list of your top three (3) employment vacancies. The HHC team handles identifying, pre-screening, and scheduling candidates to meet and interview with your company representatives. Our goal is to match your company with the most qualified candidates to fill your vacancies.

Before completing your registration take a look at last year's HHC #7 video:

link: <https://youtu.be/eMML1T72oek>

Location:

Palmer House Hilton
17 E. Monroe St.
Chicago, IL 60603

Registration Fee:
\$200

- Discounted on-site parking
- Light lunch
- Complimentary access to Wi-Fi
- One table set up (including one tablecloth and two chairs)
- Coffee and water station
- Event informational package

Please take a moment to complete the following steps below to secure space for your business at our 8th HHC 2025 Event. You MUST complete the steps as listed by clicking the links below.

PLEASE SUBMIT PAYMENT, step 1, before completing step 2:

Submit your payment request to [Choose Chicago](#). (Be sure to scroll all the way to the bottom of the page and click **"Register Now"**)

Complete [Employer Questionnaire](#), includes specific information pertaining to your employment opportunities and uploading job descriptions.

The deadline for submitting your information is **Monday, April 7, 2025**. We look forward to helping you meet your hiring needs and to ensure you have quality candidates to interview on April 15th.

We are happy to work with you, if you require additional support. If you have any questions, please contact The Partnership's Business Relations Specialist:

Marion A. Batey, mbatey@chicookworks.org.

[**REGISTER NOW**](#)



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In South Loop murder, woman gave partner 'prearranged signal' to start shooting during drug deal: prosecutors

[March 10, 2025 6:23 PM Tim Hecke South Loop](#)

Jeremiah Jordan and Shanna Walton-Smith and an image of the crime scene. (Chicago Police Department, Citizen App)

CHICAGO — A man and woman are charged with murdering an 18-year-old woman and injuring her companion during a drug transaction in the South Loop [over the weekend](#). Prosecutors said Jeremiah Jordan, 24, and Shanna Walton-Smith, 19, had a prearranged signal that Walton-Smith used to indicate that it was time for Jordan to start shooting.

Chicago police initially believed that Deshaunte Holly and the 38-year-old man she was with were shot in a drive-by. But further investigation revealed that was not the case, according to a proffer filed by Assistant State's Attorney Mike Pekara during a detention hearing for Jordan and Walton-Smith on Monday.

Holly and Walton-Smith agreed to meet near the intersection of Michigan Avenue and 21st Street to complete a narcotics transaction, according to Pekara. He said Jordan and Walton-Smith arrived first.

When the victims showed up, Walton-Smith, wearing a sweatshirt with the number "88" on it, got into their back seat while Jordan waited in the driver's seat of a red SUV.

After a couple of minutes, Jordan pulled the SUV next to the victims' car, blocking it in. Then, as Holly reached into the back seat, Walton-Smith nodded at Jordan, their "prearranged signal" for him to start shooting, according to Pekara.

Jordan allegedly began shooting from the SUV, firing rounds through the victims' windshield. Holly was struck several times and died. The man suffered a gunshot wound to his hand.

Pekara said the male victim threw his car into reverse to try to escape, but he crashed into a parked car and had to run away on foot. He hid behind nearby cars until Jordan and Walton-Smith fled in the SUV.

The man immediately ran to a nearby intersection and flagged down a passing patrol car.

Using CPD surveillance cameras and the city's license plate reader network, the police identified the gunman's car, determined it was registered to Jordan's mother, and located it in less than an hour near 59th Street and Wells, Pekara's filing said.

Patrol officers caught up with the SUV, which sped away from them and tried to escape until it became disabled. The police arrested Jordan, who was driving, and Walton-Smith, who was still wearing a sweatshirt with the number "88" on it, according to Pekara.

A 9-millimeter handgun in the SUV's center console was sent to a lab for testing. Preliminary results indicate it is the weapon that expended four shell casings found at the shooting scene.

Pekara said GPS records show that phones recovered from Jordan and Walton-Smith were in the area of 21st and Michigan around the time of the shooting.

During questioning, Walton-Smith admitted to being in the victims' car to complete a drug transaction, but she claimed Holly pulled a gun on her, according to Pekara. But, the veteran prosecutor said, the police did not find any weapons inside the victims' car or in the area around the vehicle where the male victim fled after being shot.

Jordan, Pekara said, also made a phone call from the police station in which he admitted to firing a gun. He is on first-time weapon offender probation for a 2023 gun case.

Judge Antara Rivera ordered Jordan and Walton-Smith detained pending trial. They are both charged with first-degree murder, murder, and attempted murder. Jordan is also charged with aggravated unlawful possession of a weapon and misdemeanor fleeing.

<https://cwbchicago.com/2025/03/in-south-loop-murder-woman-gave-partner-prearranged-signal-to-start-shooting-during-drug-deal-prosecutors.html>



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 May 14, 2025
5:30 pm in-person
Beat 123, Grace Place

caps.001district@chicagopolice.org



Police Blotter



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

3/16/2025 10am 2300 S Wabash
 AUTO THEFT on street Beat 131

3/8/2025 6:40am 1800 S Clark
 AUTO THEFT on street Beat 131

3/8/2025 2:05am 2000 S Clark
 BURGLARY Forcible Entry Restaurant Beat 131

3/5/2025 7:55am 1300 S State
 AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 131

3/7/2025 10:55pm 100 E 21st
 HOMICIDE on street Beat 132

3/5/2025 6pm 1200 S Michigan
 AUTO THEFT on street Beat 132

3/2/2025 1:30am 2200 S Michigan
 AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Handgun in Bar Beat 132

3/16/2025 7:45pm 1100 S Michigan
 CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT in Apt Beat 123

3/12/2025 8:30pm 800 S Wells
 AUTO THEFT on street Beat 123

3/11/2025 6pm 600 S Financial
 AUTO THEFT Non-res Garage Beat 123

3/10/2025 1:40am 1100 S State St
 ATTEMPT ARMED ROBBERY Subway platform Knife B123

3/10/2025 1am 600 S LaSalle
 AUTO THEFT on street Beat 123

3/8/2025 9:30pm 800 S State
 AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 123

3/8/2025 1pm 0 E 9th St
 SIMPLE ASSAULT Res. Garage Beat 123

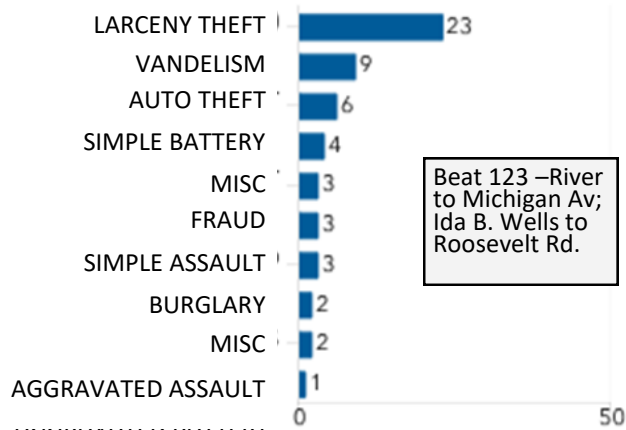
3/8/2025 7:13am 1100 S Clark
 AUTO THEFT Garage Beat 123

3/6/2025 8:07pm 1100 S Delano Ct
 SIMPLE ASSAULT on Street Roosevelt Collection No
 weapon Beat 123

3/3/2025 4:30PM 700 S LaSalle
 AUTO THEFT on street Beat 123

Top 10 Crimes

PERIOD MAR 1 TO MAR 15, 2025



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

Rogue tow truck driver is stealing vehicles from South Loop crash scenes

[March 17, 2025 1:03 PM CWBChicago South Loop](#)
[\(Adobe/bluraz\)](#)

CHICAGO — A rogue tow truck operator is stealing cars from drivers involved in traffic crashes in the South Loop, according to a new alert from Chicago police. Vehicles have been stolen from crash scenes at least twice in the past three weeks.

CPD said both victims were involved in traffic crashes when the thief showed up with his tow truck and took their vehicles without permission. The tow driver, operating under a fake company name, took the cars to unknown locations.

One victim was targeted after crashing in the 1900 block of South Lake Shore Drive around midnight on February 26. The other had their car stolen following an accident in the 1800 block of South Clark at 7:40 a.m. on March 8.

CPD's alert described the tow driver only as a man between 25 and 30 years old.

Police are warning drivers to avoid unsolicited tows and to be wary of "chaser" trucks that show up at crash scenes. The department also recommends contacting your insurance company before hiring a tow or roadside assistant. Additionally, CPD said drivers should

- not give in to high-pressure tactics
- check and verify a tow operator's municipal license number keep a copy of their plate and vehicle identification number in a safe place so they have it handy if their car is stolen.

Anyone with information about the tow scam can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding crime pattern #25-3-018.

<https://cwbchicago.com/2025/03/rogue-tow-truck-driver-is-stealing-vehicles-from-south-loop-crash-scenes.html>

THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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Real Estate Transactions

\$375,000
910 S MICHIGAN AVE 519
2/20/25

\$295,000
680 S FEDERAL AVE 602
2/20/25

\$405,000
1111 S WABASH AVE 1103
2/19/25

\$1,035,000
1331 S INDIANA AVE
2/18/25

\$672,500
125 E 13TH ST 806
2/18/25

\$340,000
41 E 8TH ST 1406
2/14/25

\$282,500
1155 S STATE ST 501C
2/11/25

\$640,000
124 W POLK ST 901
2/7/25

\$573,000
1071 S PARK TERRACE 206
2/6/25

\$1,087,500
1211 S PRAIRIE AVE 601
2/6/25

\$945,000
727 S DEARBORN ST 1012
2/5/25

\$228,000
899 S PLYMOUTH CT 1205
2/5/25

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click on "contact"

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Dearborn Street Realty

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tomfeddor@gmail.com



Anne Rosen

Keller Williams

312.545.7148

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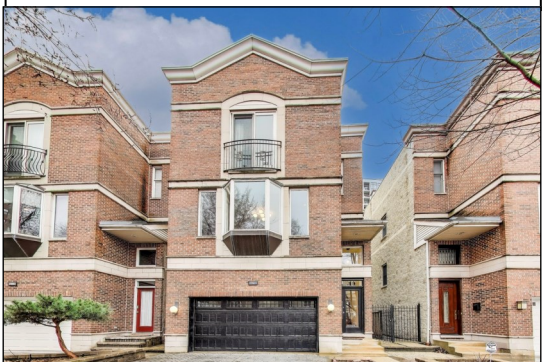
1076 S Plymouth Ct Unit 4D
3 Bed, 2.5 bath 1550 Sq Ft
\$599,000 HOA \$619

Ginger Hecht
Coldwell Banker Realty
833.689.3774



1133 S Wabash Ave #603
1 bed, 1.5 bath, 980 Sq Ft
\$305,000 HOA \$693

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19 W 15th St
3 bed, 3 bath 2637 Sq Ft
\$1,335,000

David Rosen
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900 S Wabash Av #701
1 bed, 1 bath 950 Sq Ft
\$225,000 HOA \$553

Chris Pezza
Corcoran Urban RE
630.460.0625



1160 S Michigan Ave
#1802
2 bed, 2 bath, 1231 sq ft
\$429,000

Michael Maier
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices Chicago
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1111 S State St #A500
2 bed, 2 bath, 1500 sq ft
\$525,000

Juan Ventura
eXp Realty, LLC
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1111 S Wabash Ave
#1201
2 bed, 2 bath, 1400 sq ft
\$400,000

Joey Halperin
Dream Town Real Estate
847.867.6809



100 E 14th St #2409
2 bed, 2 bath, 1248 sq ft
\$550,000 HOA \$790

Lorenzo Garth
HomeSmart Connect LLC
224.770.1287



1 E 8th St #1006
2 bed, 2 bath, 1100 sq ft
\$394,900 HOA \$647

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