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POWER TO THE PEOPLE!



Protesters gather near Daley Plaza at the start of the "No Kings" protest and march on June 14, 2025. Credit: Vincent D Johnson for Block Club Chicago

Power to the People Song, John Lennon, [CLICK HERE](#)

Power to the People Song, Curtis Mayfield, [CLICK HERE](#)

Get Up Stand Up, Stand up for your Rights! Song by Bob Marley [CLICK HERE](#)

Large protests reminiscent of the late 60's and early 70's. Back then, it was the younger generation that drove the protests. Now, it appears, that same generation, the Baby Boomers, is driving this. But the "No Kings" March did attract young and old, and a diverse group who collaesed into one voice. An earlier protest against ICE was definitely more younger people and ethnic groups who are affected by these policies. And who are these ICE officers who hide behind masks? Are they local? How does one apply for a job with ICE? They make the Chicago Police look wildly transparent with no masks and body cams. They (ICE) appear to answer to no one. A Secret police. See page 20.

June 20, 2025

Vol. 13, No.8

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JAZZ SHOWCASE

Thu-Sat, Jun 19-21, 8pm & 10pm...Hammond Organ Artist Justin Dillard's Live Birthday/
Juneteenth Recording featuring Bobby Broom

Sun, Jun 22, 4pm & 8pm.....Hammond Organ Artist Justin Dillard's Live Birthday/
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Mon, Jun 23, 5:30pm.....Chicago Jazz Orchestra featuring Bobbi Wilsyn

Tue, Jun 24, 8pm.....Petra's Recession Seven

Wed, Jun 25, 8pm.....Dave Gordon CD Release

Thu-Sat, Jun 26-28, 8pm & 10pm.....Camille Thurman with The Darrell Green Quartet

Sun, Jun 29, 4pm & 8pm.....Camille Thurman with The Darrell Green Quartet

Mon, Jun 30, 5:30pm.....Chicago Jazz Orchestra featuring
John Wojciehowski

Tue-Wed, Jul 1-2, 8pm & 10pm.....Ernest Dawkins' New Horizons Ensemble Redux

Thu-Sat, Jul 3-5, 8pm & 10pm.....Lenard Simpson Quartet

Sun, Jul 6, 4pm & 8pm.....Lenard Simpson Quartet

Mon, Jul 7, 5:30pm.....Chicago Jazz Orchestra

Tue, Jul 8, 8pm & 10pm.....Isabella Isherwood Quartet

Thu-Sat, Jul 10-12, 8pm & 10pm.....Ryan Cohan Quartet

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

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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
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- ☐ 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

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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.



Careful choice, not necessarily expense, matters with walking shoes

By **Marianne Goss** May 31, 2025

I was delighted to buy a pair of Dolce Vita sneakers at TJ Maxx for \$24, discounted 84%. I didn't know the brand but figured that for the original price they should be first-rate.

"You've got nothing on me," I crowed to myself when walking by people in HOKAs.

At home, I asked Google whether Dolce Vita shoes were good for being on one's feet for hours. I want supportive shoes for Chicago Greeter tours and volunteer shifts at the Anti-Cruelty Society, especially now that I'm having knee problems. "Dolce Vita shoes generally receive mixed reviews regarding their quality," came the AI-generated reply. "They are better known for style than performance."

I returned the shoes.

Before shopping again, I researched what to look for in walking shoes. I've always bought name-brand sneakers but not \$100+ models. Should I start spending megabucks? On the other hand, if walking barefoot is as good for our feet as its proponents say, why does it matter what shoes we wear?

Barefoot is our natural walk and inherently healthy, I read, but obviously it's best confined to home and the beach. When we put on shoes, they affect how we walk. If shoes don't support the natural mechanics of walking, they can cause discomfort and injuries, including blisters, tendonitis, plantar fasciitis, and stress fractures.

Contrary to what many people think, deep cushioning isn't desirable in walking shoes, according to Harvard Health. The right cushioning absorbs shocks but is not so thick that it impedes range of motion. While the toe box should be roomy (you may need a half-size larger than usual), the heel should fit snugly. The shoe has good lateral support if you can't twist it easily in your hands.

Shoes with the right cushioning and support can be found for a reasonable price. You can spend more on advanced features like rocker bottoms and high-tech materials, but they have not been shown to better prevent injuries or improve performance.

The most important criterion remains how shoes feel on your feet. Walking shoes should be comfortable immediately. They should not need to be broken in.

While you don't have to spring for three-figure walking shoes, maybe you aren't willing to take a chance on no-name footwear. You don't have to. If you Google "sales of

walking shoes," you can find deep discounts on name brands including Reebok, Adidas, Ryka, and New Balance. Skechers Go Walks, which are recommended by multiple reviewers, are selling for around \$35. Wearers of \$23 Avia shoes claim they're as comfortable as \$150 On Clouds, *People* magazine reported.

When I asked my physical therapist for a shoe recommendation, he said he prefers to recommend insoles. He likes Superfeet, which aren't cheap. Some reviewers mention Spenco, Easyfeet, and Dr. Scholl's insoles for affordability. I saw online comments that high-quality socks also make a big difference in comfort.

Rotating shoes is also recommended, along with replacing walking shoes after 300 to 500 miles or when the tread is significantly worn.

I found Adidas Grand Court sneakers at a 70% discount. I took the risk of buying online, since returns were free, and this time checked reviews beforehand. "Walked miles in them in one day," "Great to wear standing on your feet for long periods of time," and "Couldn't believe how comfortable they are" sold me.



If you've worn HOKAs and think they are the epitome of comfort, who am I to say you've overspent? Comfort is subjective. I asked my sister Nancy, whose podiatrist recommended HOKAs after her toe surgery because they have a wide toe box, whether she would buy them again. "If I need that feature again, I would get them," Nancy said. "HOKAs are very comfortable, but there are other brands that are as comfortable, and I like the look better. My current favorite is On Cloud."

OCs are as expensive as HOKAs. Nancy isn't as frugal as I am. I'm trying to reassure penny-pinchers like me that we're not ruining our bodies by spending less. If you learn what to look for, take time shopping, and don't make an impulse buy (as I did with the Dolce Vitas), you can find good walking shoes that are reasonably priced, preferably on sale.

A final note: If you have foot problems, experts advise seeing a podiatrist before relying on shoes to fix them.

[COMMENT](#)

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



Members of Indivisible Chicago gather prior to the march. Indivisible Chicago were the organizers for the "No Kings" March in Chicago. Photo provided.



Protestors making their way around the Wrigley Building. Photo by Ben Padgitt

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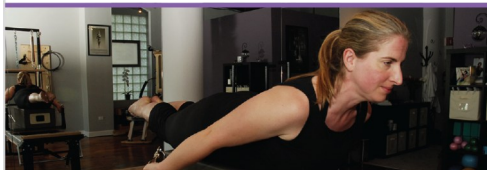
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Harriet Tubman: LIVE IN CONCERT by [Bob the Drag Queen](#) (Gallery Books 2025).

Harriet Tubman we know. Even the most pathetic, white-washed American history classes taught us that a 5-foot, disabled Black woman escaped from a plantation in on the Eastern shore of Maryland, figured out which way was north, got herself to Philadelphia—free for the first time in her life—and then decided to go back, again and again, and help hundreds more escape the horrors of slavery. Some of us saw a 2019 film that introduced Harriet as the first woman to lead a military operation during wartime, liberating over 700 enslaved people from plantations along the Combahee River. Many of us *don't* know Bob the Drag queen, a/k/a Christopher Delmar Caldwell, an American drag queen, comedian, actor, activist, producer, musician, author, and reality television personality. He's best known for winning the eighth season of RuPaul's Drag Race and has 6.4 million followers on social media. June is LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, and, although the current political leadership does not support, as the vice-president says, "dudes in dresses," the rest of us can honor the struggle by reading this short book, meant eventually to become a play. In Bob's novel, Harriet returns to earth during an "age of miracles" and hires Darnell, a former big-time producer, (whose career in rap music crashed when he was outed on national TV), to help her create a hip-hop/gospel live show about her life. "WANTED A CHANCE TO WRITE SOME GOOD MUSIC I MEAN SOME HOOD MUSIC," she shouted at their first meeting in a Harlem recording studio. Along the way we meet her band, including a "house slave" who teaches Darnell that her dawn-to-dark job was way harder than picking cotton, and a field hand built "as if Michael Clark Duncan swallowed Michael Clark Duncan," who disabused

Darnell of the notion that all slaves were pious Christians waiting for the promised land. From Harriet's own lips, we see a softer side of John Brown, who actually doffed his hat for Harriet; we hear Frederick Douglas described as brilliant but "uppity"; we digest the view that Honest Abe originally wanted to send all the enslaved people back to Africa; we learn that the former enslaved were made to speak on "the abolitionist circuit," to people too fearful to take up the fight but rich enough to support it. Bob is a comic, so however painful the stories and insights he shares with his modern readers, there is always something to laugh about. Harriet walked "like Whoopi Goldberg, in every movie where she had to wear heels." Harriet's inspiration to runaway was the answer to her prayer about her enslaver: "I asked the Lawd to either change his heart or *stop it* so he could get out my way." Harriet says she came back to save Darnell from his bondage of self, who, like so many of the queer community, kept his secrets: "I am so used to code-switching that sometimes I don't even know who I am." Harriet and the band encourage him—despite the threats, discrimination, mockery, isolation and hatred—to "shout it from the mountaintop," as had one of their contemporaries, William Dorsey Swann, a former slave who led a gay resistance group in the 1860's. "One of the fiercest Black activists I even met was as queer as a four-legged duck." Harriet's **LIVE CONCERT** is worth the listen; empathy is easier when we know the truth.

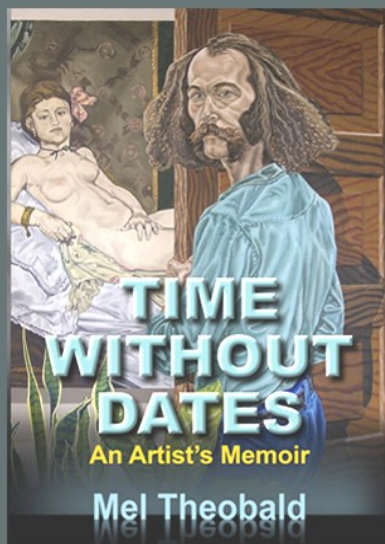
Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park / June, 2025



Time Without Dates

An Artist's Memoir



by Mel Theobald

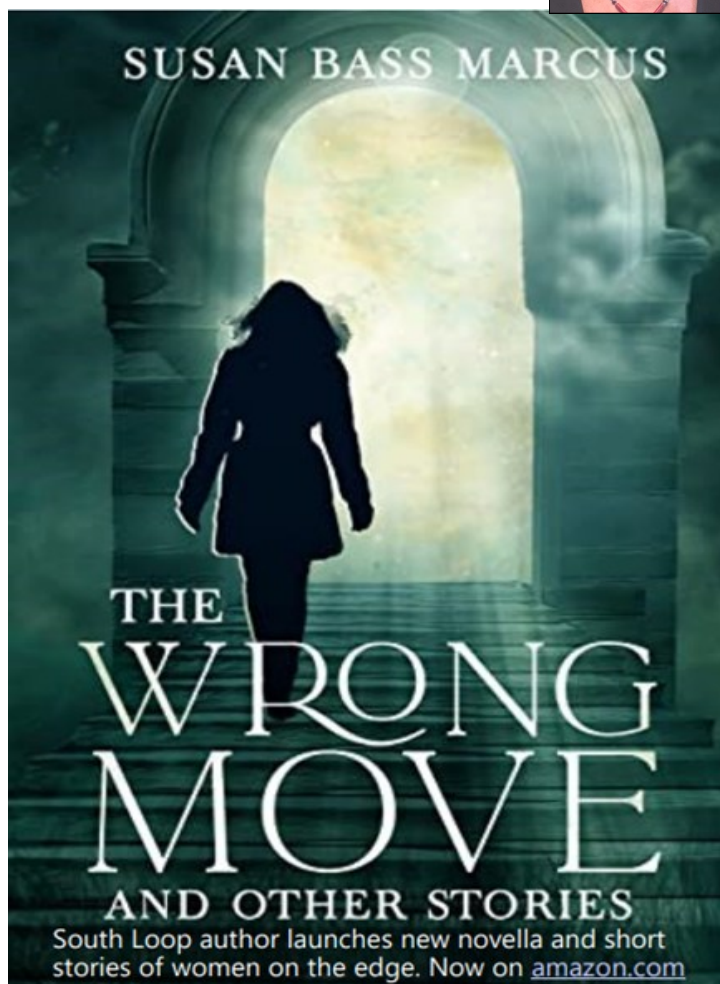
In this candid memoir, the author pays tribute to the mentors and events that inspired him and lays bare the experiences that shaped him as an artist. The Art Institute of Chicago plays a central role in the years he spent as a student, museum conservator, and alumni leader. His struggles with his parents'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

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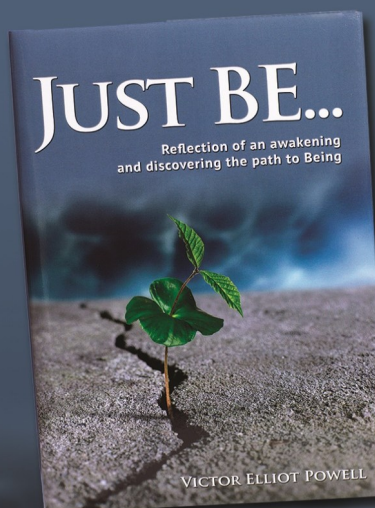
and how their faiths — Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Catholic — inform their jokes. Featuring **Gibran Saleem**, **Hari Kondabolu**, **Peter Sagal**, and **Kate Sidley**. [GET TICKETS HERE](#)



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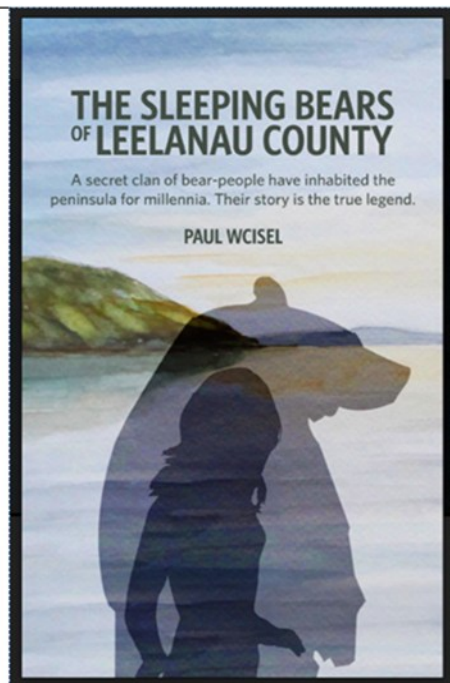


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 (paulwcisel.com)

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Ex-4th Ward Candidate Wins \$1.4 Million In Defamation Suit Against Ald. Robinson's Campaign

A Cook County jury sided with Ebony Lucas, who accused Ald. Lamont Robinson's political action committee and 4th Ward Democratic Organization of sending defamatory mailers about her ahead of the February 2023 election.

by Jamie Nesbitt Golden

BRONZEVILLE — Former 4th Ward aldermanic candidate Ebony Lucas is due \$1.475 million after a jury sided with her in a defamation lawsuit against Ald. Lamont Robinson's political action committee and the 4th Ward Democratic Organization.

A Cook County jury awarded Lucas the judgment Wednesday. Her lawsuit stems from the 2023 aldermanic race in which she accused Robinson's campaign of sending a trio of mailers and text messages to voters painting her as a "slumlord" days before the Feb. 28 election.

While Lucas initially sought \$100,000 in damages, the jury awarded the longtime community activist \$225,000 in compensatory and \$1.25 million in punitive damages — an amount Lucas believes underscored the severity of the situation, she told Block Club after the verdict.

Lucas said she sees the ruling as not only vindication for herself, but also for the political campaign system.

"We've gotten used to and afraid of speaking out in these campaigns when things like this happen. People get annoyed by it, but they brush it off," Lucas said. "But the problem is that you're sending out misinformation, and if we don't want the Republican Party to do that, then the Democratic Party can't do it, either. We can hopefully

have a more fair system in the future."

When reached for comment, Robinson said in a statement to Block Club that he plans to challenge the ruling.

"This lawsuit has always been politically motivated.

Residents of the 4th Ward voted for me

because they knew I would fight for them, and that's exactly where my focus remains," Robinson said. "With critical funding for programs like Job Corps just being cut, I'm focused on supporting the students who will be impacted and strengthening public safety efforts in our community. My priority is addressing the real challenges we face, not engaging in political theater."

Lucas ran for the 4th Ward seat in 2017, 2019 and 2023, entering a dead heat in the most recent race with former 4th Ward Chief of Staff Prentice Butler to square off against Robinson in the April runoff. Butler eventually went to the runoff by 104 votes.

Days before the election, Lucas penned a letter in the Hyde Park Herald blasting Robinson for attempting to suppress votes by claiming she'd racked up debts, code violations and city fines. She also accused the former state representative of hypocrisy for co-sponsoring a "Truth In Politics" bill.



Attorney Ebony Lucas (r) has won her million-dollar defamation suit against Ald. Lamont Robinson's campaign. Credit: Provided.

Block Club Chicago <https://blockclubchicago.org/>

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OPINION

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Normal/Abnormal

Regan Burke
June 14th, 2025



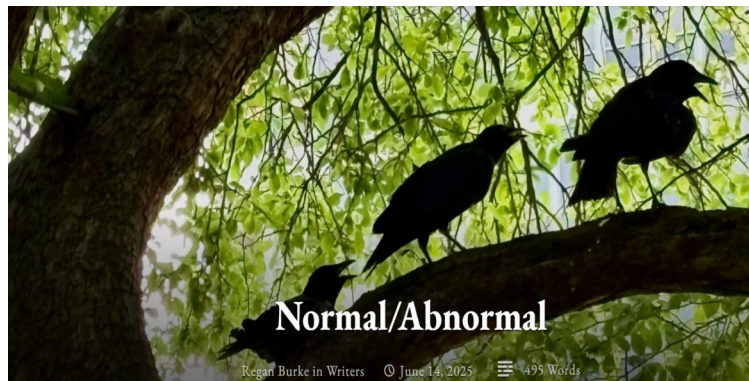
Two nests of crow chicks fledged on my city street this past week. I wonder if the high-rise humans down the block noticed the chicks' noisy beginning of life in the urban wild. Everyday for two weeks, I looked up from under the trees while walking Elsa. I saw the chicks poking their hungry beaks out of the nests, then stepping out to bounce from leafy limb to limb to rooftop to balcony, squawking away. The parent crows flew farther and farther, screaming at their offspring as encouragement to get those wings flapping and join them in pursuing edible horizons. And then, quiet. They're gone. They'll be back, of course. But for now, the daily racket of new young crows has flown the coop.

How comforting to observe the steadfast natural order of things. These days, the built world I've known my whole life is breaking down so fast that I half expect the natural world to follow; Lake Michigan to dry up and all the birds to drop from the sky. That bad? Sometimes. Experts say old-age limits short-term memory, exaggerates long-term. My long-term emotional memories are thus resistant to age-related decline. I'm in my 80th year, having just celebrated the 79th. The fear I felt watching the original Mad Max (1979), Poseidon Adventure (1972) and Blade Runner (1982) bubbles up without reference to those movies. It simply presents itself as the world we know is over.

On the other hand, I'm convinced The Wizard of Oz gave me a love for birds, if not a curiosity about an un-earthly world. *Somewhere over the rainbow, bluebirds fly. Birds fly over the rainbow; why, then, oh why can't I?*

Yeah, why can't I?

Every time a crow chick leaves the nest, some transcendental part of me follows. My earliest dreams were flying visions. I willed myself off the ground and flew around the neighborhood spying on people. God help me, if I had a drone. I'd probably be peeking in the windows of high-rise residences.



There's no question movies have influenced my core. They're not saving me from worry, nor diverting the fear of living in a militarized police state. That long-term memory perverts itself into real and present danger. Can the now-pardoned Jan 6 insurrectionists show up as a Mad-Max-type private army? Would there be a search and rescue operation if my transatlantic ship capsized like the Poseidon? And worse, will there be an antidote for experimental robots gone bad as in Blade Runner?

Fortunately, the clouds of knowing break open every morning to a normal reality. Recent shoulder surgery grounds me in pain. Friends gather for coffee. My granddaughter is marrying a super guy. Regulars show up at church. The same 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous are read at every meeting. The "No Kings" protest is actually a movement. The rabbits are back in the park. Elsa goes for walks.

Normal and abnormal live side by side.

For now.

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.



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Editor's Letter: June, 2025

June 4, 2025 by [Brian Hieggelke](#)

Though it wasn't planned this way, there's a thread through most of the feature stories in this issue that's personal for me, spanning most of my adult life.

I came of age at the same time that Rich Melman was hitting his stride in the early days of Lettuce Entertain You. In college, I tasted then-exotic guacamole for the first time at R.J. Grunts; not long after that, Jan and I dined at The Great Gritzbe's Flying Food Show on our honeymoon. The mixture of food and entertainment at the colorful cascade of Melman restaurants remained a fixture of our life, especially in our twenties and thirties. Cynthia Clampitt lays out a similar personal history of what has become much more than a

local institution in her story "Fresh Lettuce," connecting the lines between the restaurant empire's founding and its latest incarnation, now led by a new generation of Melmans.

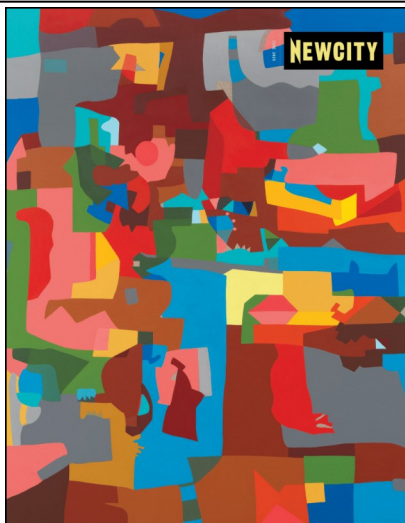
As Todd Hieggelke spells out in his introduction to the "Lit 50," we've literally grown up as a publication beside the Printers Row Lit Fest, and we've lived our lives and raised our children with the book fair playing a central role in our summers from our perch up above it.

The impending demise of Links Hall hits hard, even if we were better about covering the institution than attending it ourselves. Sharon Hoyer crafts a moving elegy to the irreplaceable venue in "Last Dance" in these pages. Unforgettable for me was its short-lived downstairs neighbor in the late eighties, Club Lower Links, which combined a nightclub with cutting-edge performance, at a moment when the kind of provocative art they booked was especially strong in Chicago. But also increasingly taboo in America, with the controversy over the NEA Four foreshadowing today's Trumpian moment. We did one of our earliest cover stories on Lower Links, and while I was not invited, I heard plenty of stories at that time when Jan and a few women from the office went to see Annie Sprinkle perform her "Public Cervix Announcement" at the club. Look it up.

Like anyone who spends time in the Chicago art world, I've known and admired Candida Alvarez for years, both as an artist but also as one of the nicest humans you'll ever meet. But just a week before writing this, I was in New York and got a chance to see her first major museum exhibition, and it was worth the trip. I saw work both familiar and surprising, and left with a deep appreciation for the scope of her still-vibrant career. Alison Cuddy got there before me, and was able to visit Candida's gallery debut at Gray New York, crafting an incisive profile in "The Mystery of Color" that incorporates Alvarez in her New York, Chicago and Michigan moments.

Now I'm ready for a drink. Meet me at Gus' Sip & Dip for a Harvey Wallbanger?

—BRIAN HIEGGELKE



Candida Alvarez "Pica, Pica 4," 2021, acrylic on linen, 84 x 72 in., 213.4 x 182.9 cm., 7 x 6 ft. Image courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery | Cover design: Dan Streeting

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Lit 50 2025

Who really books In Chicago

AND

Poetry

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John Kwon

June 28 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

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K.397

L. V. Beethoven

Piano Sonata No. 13 in E-flat
major Op. 27 No. 1, "Quasi una
fantasia", Op. 17

Piano Sonata No. 14 in C
sharp minor Op. 27 No. 2,
"Quasi una fantasia"
(AKA 'Moonlight' sonata)
R. Schumann
The Fantasie in C Major

musicianship, sensitivity,
and insightful perfor-
mances. Renowned critic
Harris Goldsmith praised
him as a "versatile and
interesting musician who
keeps audiences' attention
from beginning to end."
Mr. Kwon began his piano
studies at the age of nine
and attended the Pre-
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Tickets are available at the door after 5:00PM

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Headliner: Dave Weld – 9:00 to Close

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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.

PHOTO/VIDEO POLICY: 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.



700 S Wabash Ave

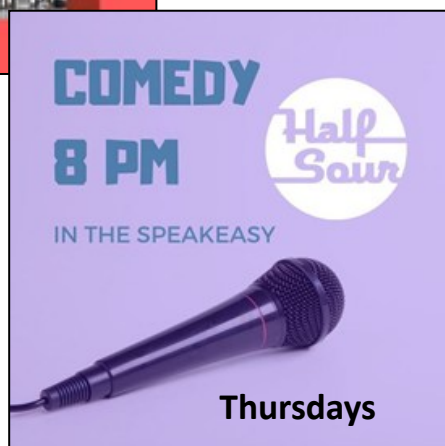
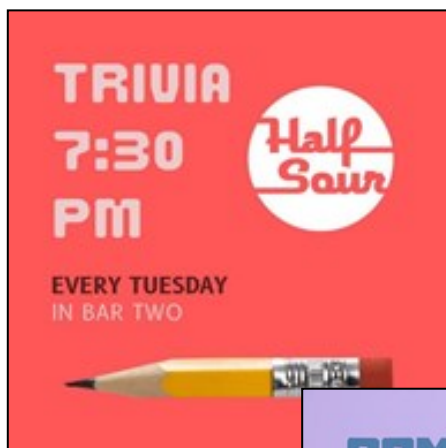
Tickets are available at the door
after 5:00PM

21+ After 8:00PM



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Bingo with Betty

Last Wednesday of the month



Improv Near Me

Friday at 6:00pm & Saturday 8:00pm

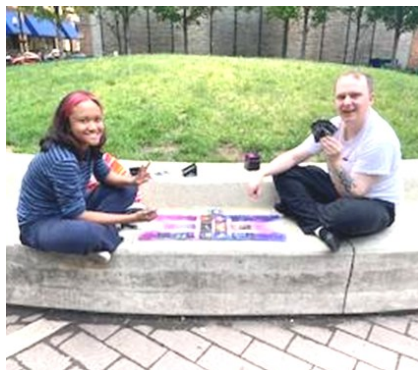
Improv Near Me is a one-of-a-kind, 360-degree comedy experience that brings the spirit of Chicago's legendary improv scene to life—right in the round! Blending classic improv scenes, musical moments, and immersive staging, the show surrounds the audience with spontaneous storytelling and rapid-fire laughs, all while paying tribute to the iconic neighborhoods and landmarks that helped shape the art form. Whether you're a lifelong local or just visiting the birthplace of improv, this high-energy celebration of Chicago's comedic roots puts you right at the heart of the action—no map required.



906 S Wabash

[The-revival.com](#)

The Revival



About 40 residents of the South Loop got their game on and embraced the concept of play in Printers Row Park at Game Night on June 19 in Printers Row Park. The weather was beautiful and the park provided the perfect setting for board games like Scrabble and Uno, as well as active games such as Pictionary, jump rope, frisbee and bags. Next Game Night is scheduled for July 17, 5pm-7pm. South Loop Neighbors will distribute free ice cream at that event.

Don't forget to mark your calendars!

Change starts → HERE

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Health and Science



Astronomy: Decoding the Cosmos: Insights from Millimeter-Wavelength Observations

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Add to Calendar

5:30PM – 6:30PM

Harold Washington Library Center



Observing the sky at millimeter wavelengths offers a powerful window into the history of our Universe. In this lecture we'll explore how these observations help uncover clues about the Universe's first moments and provide insights into its ultimate fate. A Q&A with the audience will follow the talk.

Our speaker is Matthew R. Young, an Astrophysicist from Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, IL. Matthew received his Ph.D. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from the University of Toronto and has spent several years working in Antarctica to support research with the South Pole Telescope.

How to Attend

This event is available in person and online. Registration for in-person attendance is not required.

Attend in person at Harold Washington Library Center

Room 8S 14-15, 400 S. State Street, Chicago, IL

Attend online via Zoom

Only one registration per household is needed. You'll receive an email with a link to the secure Zoom meeting about 24 hours before the meeting. Questions about attending online events? Check out our [Events FAQs](#).

Accessibility

Need sign language interpretation or other accessibility assistance for this event? Please call (312) 747-8184 or email access@chipublib.org to request accommodations. Requests must be made at least 14 business days before the event.

Attending CPL Online Events

Questions about attending online events? Check out our [Events FAQs](#).

Photo courtesy of our presenter, Matthew R. Young.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

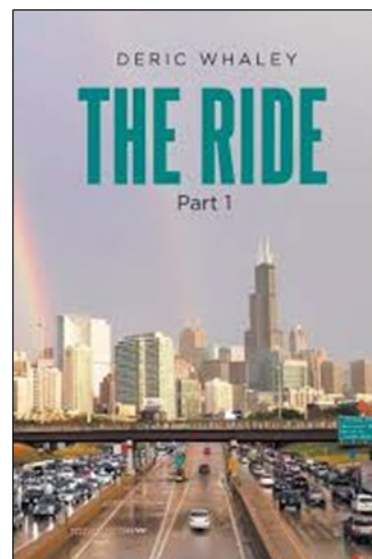
35 seats remaining

Register

[CLICK HERE](#)

THE RIDE by Deric Whaley

Author Deric Whaley's book 'The Ride' gives unique insider view on prison life. What is life really like in prison? Not just the tough guys flexing muscles or wise old long-time convicts offering sage advice seen in the movies, but the drudgery, the small victories and losses, and the philosophizing, that mark day-to-day prison existence—and existentialism.



Deric Whaley tells the real story in his book *The Ride*.

Whaley, a **former South Loop Columbia College student**, did some time as an inmate in Illinois's prison system and provides a perspective that only an insider can.

"It's called *The Ride* because once you open up the first page, you know you'll be going on quite a ride when you read this book," Whaley says.

"I wrote this book so people could experience the personal journey of an individual being incarcerated," he explains.

"The first group I hope will read it would be teenagers, because reading is fundamental to education and if you can motivate youngsters to read, you'll motivate them to become educatable," Whaley continues. "When they read the book I want them to become educated as to what's happening in society and be educated to avoid having to undergo the experience I did."

He notes that early in the book, "I write about a teenager on the bus to prison, and he began to cry because at 18 he realized he would never, ever be able to go back to the life he had before."

Whaley also hopes college and university students, particularly those studying the social sciences, will read *The Ride*, "so they can get a firsthand experience of an individual going through that incarceration process," he says. "Maybe somewhere down the line, when they become psychologists or sociologists or work with the public, they could look at the behaviors that cause individuals to become incarcerated and help them avoid committing antisocial acts in the first place."

The Ride is "a different kind of prison book because it has a personalized experience of the day-to-day internal feelings and emotions of being incarcerated," Whaley explains. "Those raw emotions are there in the book so you can feel what an incarcerated person feels and experiences—without having to be incarcerated yourself."

Whaley thinks by reading *The Ride*, "people will learn that prison is a society, but there also is a society of formerly incarcerated people living in a civilization of incarceration of the mind," he says. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AMC Theatres On Why They're Discounting Tickets

"Wednesdays are the slowest day of the week at the box office," so AMC Theatres "hopes a fifty per cent discount will shake things up," accounts the Hollywood Reporter. "AMC's maverick CEO Adam Aron began approaching studios about extending Tuesday's discount to Wednesday late last year... Studios have long been pushing Aron and other exhibitors to offer discounted Wednesday prices, but this will be the first



AMC Theater Roosevelt Collection

Tuesday's boon and move the attendance needle."

THE RIDE CONTINUED from page 14

People of all ages who read the book "will be able to know that crime doesn't pay and the consequences of actions," Whaley says.

Prison gives people a lot of time to think, and philosophizing is part of the experience. In *The Ride*, Whaley writes:

"An individual should help as many people as possible. When you share, you're blessed with more."

"Faith is the substance of all things hoped for, the evidence of all things not seen."

"I'm a survivor, and I'll survive."

"Losers do what they want to do.

Winners do what they must."

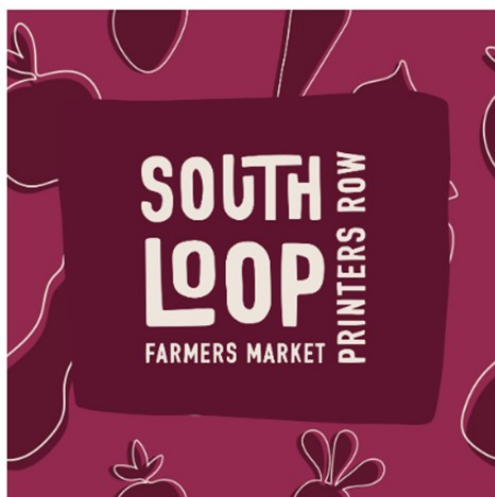
Not only does *The Ride* discuss the day-to-day in prison and the philosophical lessons learned, but it also covers Whaley growing up in North Lawndale and how easy it was to fall into a life of "drug-dealing, stealing, clothes boosting, and anything that came to mind," he writes.

In prison, Whaley writes, there are "different people from all walks of life," and "each individual had their own personal story and reason for being here." Whaley writes of a fellow inmate, Ricky, who recounted his story: "My hot-headed cousin ran up the stairs and pushed me to the side. He pumped two rounds from the .38 into the dude. Dude fell to the floor like a ragged doll." Ricky ended up being sentenced to eight years just for being there.

Whaley also writes of the benefits of Narcotics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous. "They taught me that I had to change my people, place and things," he writes. "That I had to for once in my life be honest to myself."

Compared to the extremely long sentences of some other inmates, Whaley writes, "My time was a piece of cake. It was cake, but it's still hard to swallow. You're disconnected from family, friends, and associates. The greatest gift in life is to be connected to the sources of family and friends you've developed during your existence on earth. And before you know it, it could be gone. Live life to the fullest. Take nothing for granted."

The Ride is published by New- man Springs Publishing of Red Bank, NJ, and is available in paperback and digital version from Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, and other booksellers. For more information, email anbcommunications@yahoo.com or call (312) 622-6029.



PRINTERS ROW MARKET OPEN JUNE 7

May 24 - November 1
Saturdays from 9am-1pm
(No Market 9/6, Lit Fest)

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June 12 - September 25
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[Market Info](#)



"No Kings" protest and march makes its way north on Wabash Street on June 14, 2025. Credit: Vincent D Johnson for Block Club Chicago



Protesters start to march down Dearborn Street from Daley Plaza at the start of the "No Kings" protest and march on June 14, 2025. Credit: Vincent D Johnson for Block Club Chicago



"No Kings" protesters march down Michigan Ave on June 14, 2025. Credit: Vincent D. Johnson/Block Club Chicago

Chicago's 'No Kings' March Sees Huge Crowds Shut Down The Loop To Protest President Donald Trump by Quinn Myers and Charles Thrush 6-16-2025

Around 75,000 people peacefully marched in the "No Kings" protest, which was part of a series of nationwide demonstrations against the Trump administration, organizers said.

by Quinn Myers and

THE LOOP — Scores of Chicagoans took to Downtown streets Saturday as part of the "No Kings" march, a series of nationwide protests against President Donald Trump.

The No Kings march and rally kicked off around noon Saturday at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St. It is the latest in this week's flurry of anti-Trump protests locally and across the country as the administration has ramped up immigration raids and sent in military forces to Los Angeles to quell civil unrest.

2:45 p.m. Tens of Thousands Flood Downtown For 'No Kings' Rally, Police Say

Chicago Police estimated around 20,000 people took to Downtown streets Saturday for the "No Kings" march to denounce President Donald Trump, Chief of Patrol John Hein said.

The march took up much of the Loop, with the front of the march blocks away from the tail, which was still making its way through Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive an hour after the lead of the march came through.

Protesters had made their way through the southwest end of the Loop around 2:45 p.m. The driver of a 54th/Cermak bound Pink Line train slowed down at Clark and Van Buren to let off a loud whistle from the train, resulting in loud cheers from protesters.

The march was originally slated to wrap at 2 p.m. By around 2:45 p.m., protesters began filtering back into Daley Plaza after snaking through downtown streets for over an hour and a half. Organizers stationed in tents in the plaza handed out free water bottles to marchers looking to quench their thirsts.

-Charles Thrush, Quinn Myers

3:15 p.m. March Wraps Up At Daley Plaza

The march concluded after 3 p.m., with protesters continuing to hang around Daley Plaza as the main event concluded. One of them was Little Village resident Tomas Cortez, who said he's been regularly attending anti-Trump rallies to "fight for everything."

"Fighting for immigrant rights, fighting for women's rights, fighting for the rights of people overseas, fighting for people of color, fighting for queer rights," he said.

As a Mexican American, Cortez said he feels a responsibility to be a "voice" for his neighbors in Little Village, which has a high population of undocumented immigrants.

He thought Saturday's march was overall a success, but wished it had ended in a stronger call to action.

"I want there to be speakers and reasonable discussions and to communicate as a community, a Chicago community, instead of 'you're just going to hear us speak and then we're going to go home,'" he said. "I just wish it was a little bit more of resources available to us, at

Read the rest. [CLICK](#) here!

Block Club Chicago

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



Police and protesters face off following the conclusion of the No Kings march in Chicago Saturday, June 14, 2025. Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago



Police and protesters face off following the conclusion of the No Kings march in Chicago Saturday, June 14, 2025. Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago



Protesters clear out of Daley Plaza following the "No Kings" march through Downtown Saturday, June 14, 2025. Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

4 p.m. Police Crack Down On Further Marching

About 1,000 protesters remain in Daley Plaza following the conclusion of the "No Kings" march, with some attempting to return to the streets to keep marching. Chicago police officers have formed lines at the east and west ends of the plaza to keep them from moving forward.

Protesters have shifted several times from one side of the plaza to the other. Police Supt. Larry Snelling is standing on Dearborn and Washington, as is Deputy Mayor of Public Safety Garien Gatewood.

Chants of "let us through" came from the crowd trying to march, with other chants of "don't get provoked" echoing through the crowd.

Police called for reinforcements to contain the protest.

-Quinn Myers, Charles Thrush

5 p.m. Over 5 Million March In 'No Kings' Protests Nationwide

Over 5 million people marched Saturday in over 2,000 nationwide protests as part of the "No Kings" movement that stands against President Donald Trump, organizers said.

That's more people than was anticipated by organizers. Protests in New York City saw 200,000 marchers, while Philadelphia saw roughly 100,000, organizers said in a press release.

The protesters came out despite threats of force from Trump and some Republican local leaders, organizers said.

"Today, across red states and blue, rural towns and major cities, Americans stood in peaceful unity and made it clear: we don't do kings," No Kings organizers said in a statement. "This administration disappears people while cutting their care — slashing healthcare, gutting education, and criminalizing immigrants instead of delivering dignity. But today was a reminder: we are still here. Still organizing. Still rising. Still unafraid."

5:30 p.m. Protesters And Police Clash Near ICE Field Office

After a prolonged, non-violent standoff that saw protesters hurling obscenities and chanting "Let us through" at police officers, attendees began to trickle out of Daley Plaza and the streets around it after being rebuked from marching further. By 5:30 p.m., the area had been effectively cleared.

Some protesters relocated to ICE's Chicago Field Office, 101 W. Ida B. Wells Drive, where roughly 150 people took over the area of Clark Street directly adjacent to the office.

Police rushed to the scene and formed a line, ordering and in some instances pushing protesters out of the street.

DaMontre Redmon sustained a gash to his forehead after police struck him with batons as he tried to help his friend off the ground. Police were forcing protesters off of Clark Street and onto the sidewalk in front of the office.

"They were dragging me by my feet," Redmond said, pointing to a bloodied bandage on his forehead. "I'm glad I didn't get arrested. I was just trying to help my friend, and then they're hitting me."

[Click here](#) for the rest of the story

[https://
blockclubchi-
cago.org/](https://blockclubchicago.org/)

Block Club Chicago

Protestors in Chicago rally against ICE raids, federal troops in Los Angeles

By [Matt Brady](#) and [Emma Jolly](#) June 10, 2025

Thousands of protesters gathered under Alexander Caldwell's famous "The Flamingo" arch in Federal Plaza on Tuesday night, June 10, to protest the Trump administration's immigrant policies, including ICE raids and deportations.

To chants of "No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA," "Move cops, get out the way" and "Power to the people; no one is illegal," the marchers made their way to Grant Park and then onto DuSable Lake Shore Drive during rush hour, disrupting traffic.

Handmade signs waved above the heads of protestors reading, "Resist," "Nobody is illegal" and "Let in the light."

ABC 7 [reported](#) that at one point, a car drove through a crowd of demonstrators, but no one was hurt.

Orson Orosco, an actor who has been living in Chicago for a decade, attended the gathering in support of the immigrant community.

"They are not alone," he said. "I came from a family of immigrants, and I won't leave any of them alone."

Mark Kuehner and Kathy Kuehner, a retired couple, came from Blue Island to attend the protest and sat in folding chairs holding signs.

"I am really proud of these young people," Kathy Kuehner said. "They are bright, they're educated and they are standing up for the rights of everyone. I couldn't be more proud of these kids."

Mark Kuehner said that it's a time in America to stand up for immigrants' rights and the right to protest. He said that the way immigrants have been treated is "terrible."

"It's not new with Trump, but he's doing a bunch of extra terrible things," he said. "They are just plain cruel and illegal, and we got to put a stop to it."

Similar protests have taken place across the country — and in the city — in recent days in growing outrage over the Trump administration's immigration policies and the president's decision to send National Guard troops and Marines to Los Angeles.

While most protests have been peaceful, some have been more violent and have resulted in looting, property damage and clashes with law enforcement.

At the latest protest in Chicago on Tuesday night, Elizabeth Albert, a resident of the Hyde Park neighborhood, said she attended the protest to speak for those who are afraid. "For me, it's personal," she said. "I have a family member who is undocumented, and is the father of two sweet, American little babies."

Albert said they haven't been targeted by ICE yet. "I am grateful that that has not happened, but I am fearful," she said.



Protester holds a skateboard with a sign reading "Fuck Ice" in front of Cloud Gate on Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

[Amelia Baird](#)

Albert held two signs that read "My father did not risk his life fighting Nazis in WWII so that I could bow to a neo-fascist" and "Forcing people into the shadows has never made anyone safe."

Miel Ortiz, a first-generation descendant of immigrants, said that she felt "warmhearted" seeing people of all nationalities come out and support the cause. "I'm really proud of everyone," she said.

She said immigrants don't deserve to be targeted by the federal government. "They have done nothing but work hard," she said.

The protest at Federal Plaza was sponsored by the Chicago branch of the [Party for Socialism and Liberation](#), which is a nationwide organization with branches in different cities, organized multiple of the same rallies all across the United States yesterday, including Atlanta, Denver, Boston and Washington D.C.

Earlier in the day in Chicago, protestors also gathered at Adams and Wabash and also at Chicago's Immigration Court on East Monroe Street, [WBEZ reported](#).

Last week, ICE [targeted](#) people checking in at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in the South Loop.

More protests are expected this weekend, on Saturday, June 14, including in Chicago. The "[No Kings](#)" marches will take place all over the country in multiple states in response to Trump's military parade to be held in Washington, D.C.

Additional reporting by Anastaia Mccarthy

Copy edited by Vanessa Orozco

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

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Printers Row Park
632 S Dearborn St

Stop by Thursday evening for a free ice cream treat and visiting with neighbors in the Printers Row Park
The ice cream social is in partnership with the Printers Row 3PAC, who will also be holding their monthly game night during the same time frame, followed by the PAC meeting at 7pm. You will also have the opportunity to hear about upcoming SLN events!

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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

Letter to the Editor of the Chicago Tribune regarding Masked ICE officers from the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

Last year, students on college and university campuses across the country gathered to protest military actions by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza. Fearing retribution and targeting by universities, police and others for their speech, many of the students donned masks to cover their faces. In response, state and local legislators introduced measures to ban anyone from wearing a mask while engaging in First Amendment protected activity. One New York legislator who sponsored such a measure captured the essence of the proponents' arguments for a mask ban, saying that "if you're truly out there for peaceful assembly, then there's no reason to cover your face. For those that cover their face, their intentions are to do something that is not peaceful."

One wonders about the consistency of those lawmakers considering recent events. Driven by frustration from the White House over the pace of deportations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers across the country — including right here in Chicago — are engaging in aggressive and brutal enforcement activities on the streets of many cities, in restaurants and other businesses and even in courthouses — where immigration judges are persuaded to dismiss cases and ICE officers immediately take unsuspecting people into custody. Video footage of these enforcement actions show masked ICE officers — often without identification of any kind — making arrests and separating families.

Americans were horrified when Tufts University doctoral student Rümeysa Öztürk was approached by a group of unidentified, armed, masked immigration officers and taken into custody in March. Öztürk was being detained because she had co-authored an opinion piece in a student newspaper. For that offense, she was swept up in an act that very much looked like a kidnapping.

When asked recently about ICE officers wearing masks and not identifying themselves, the head of ICE noted the outrage and criticism aimed at ICE agents when they charged into a popular San Diego restaurant, detained kitchen staff during business hours and set off smoke bombs. The ICE official said criticism of ICE officers as "terrorists" justified the masks.

It is not surprising that some ICE agents want to hide their faces. The work they are doing is unpopular and cruel. The harsh, militaristic nature of their actions is not normal and is being met with protest and opposition across the country. The White House, of course, responded to this opposition and protest over the weekend in Los Angeles by sending National Guard troops to further militarize the implementation of the administration's policies. The secretary of defense even plans to deploy Marines, further escalating tensions.



Federal agents hold back protesters while removing detainees on June 4 from an office run by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Chicago. Brian Cassella/Tribune

Groups of masked agents, armed with weapons, moving around the streets of a city in unmarked vehicles creates a public safety risk for police and for residents. If an armed group of local police confronts these masked ICE agents, how will they know they are federal law enforcement officers? It is not hard to see a situation like this escalating rapidly.

Worse still, the masks send a signal to ICE officers and the public that they are not accountable for their actions — even unconstitutional and illegal actions — and that their superiors will cover for them and encourage them to hide their identities when they are acting in their official capacity. This is the opposite of accountability. There is good reason why Chicago police officers are expressly prohibited from hiding their nameplates or badge numbers when out on the streets. But federal immigration officers are not held to the same standard.

It is tragic that some lawmakers in our country believe that people engaged in protest under the First Amendment should be held more accountable than sworn, armed immigration officers. The administration of President Donald Trump should prohibit ICE officers from wearing masks to prevent them from being identified in the public. This is not the way a democracy should work — in which those working to forward the president's agenda can act with impunity, but everyone else needs follow the rules.

This must change.

Edwin C. Yohnka the director of communications and public policy at the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

https://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=30800fc0-af95-4c35-be60-583a86592806

Chicago Tribune

Beth Finke's Writers in Exile

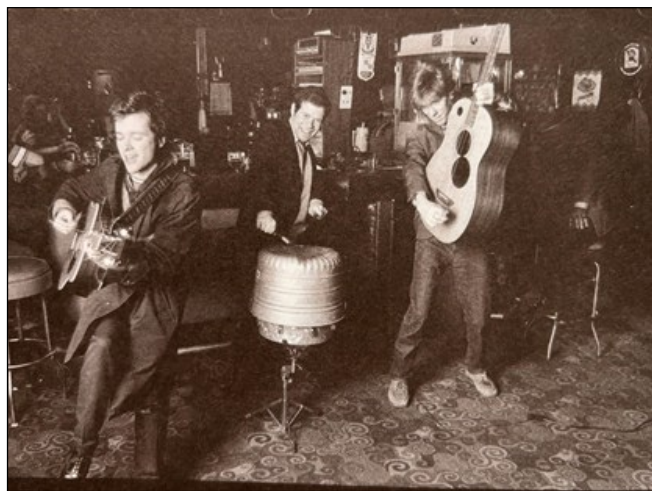
THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

Andrew Bendelow is a member of Beth's "Writers in Exile," Class. The name created during the Pandemic. The prompt for this essay was "Things that go Bump in the Night." Bendelow is a retired high school English teacher.

Finks is a second-floor music club on Normal's Front Street, where they had Augsburg (Light and Dark) on tap. I am 22, a grad student at ISU, and the unappointed taste maker and music critic of my Central Illinois metropolis. I am qualified, having read books by Griel Marcus, listened to old blues recordings, subscribed to *Rolling Stone*, studied Joni Mitchell, and memorized Dylan's *Blonde on Blonde*. I feel certain that music changes the world, for it has changed mine, exploding horizons and acquainting me with humans who barely resemble me but boldly express truths I recognize.

I embark on a mission to enlighten my benighted neighbors, for *great music* is happening in 1983—both among us and farther afield, and they should know about it. I adopt the pseudonym "Red Newton" and become music critic of the local underground newspaper, the Bloomington-Normal *Post-Amerikan*. I write about the twin-cities local bands—Toxic Shock, Nameless Dread, Diatribe—and when national acts I consider praiseworthy came through our town, I scrape up the dollars for their shows and review them, too.

The Finks stage is no stage, just the far end of the room with a PA and lights set up. The whole place could pack maybe 200 people in, but tonight's attraction has only pulled a few dozen cognoscenti. Once the band begins, I stand 2-3 feet from the lead singer and guitarist, whose scrawny body and scratchy voice can't be older than 19. He's not exactly a singer—he sort of half-speaks his lyrics as if he's an actor on stage. The songs he plays on his Strat are musically quite simple, but the bodacious stories his adenoidal voice shouts, the outrageous statements expressing human truth I could not imagine admitting out loud, they mesmerize me: "Why can't I get just one kiss/ Why can't I get just one kiss/ Believe me there'd be some things that I wouldn't miss/ But I look at your pants and I need a kiss."



The Violent Femmes

Behind him a drummer propels the song, beating on a galvanized steel washtub on top of a floor tom with brushes. A tall bass player with a shoulder-slung acoustic-electric bass weaves sinuous harmonic lines around the short singer's songs.

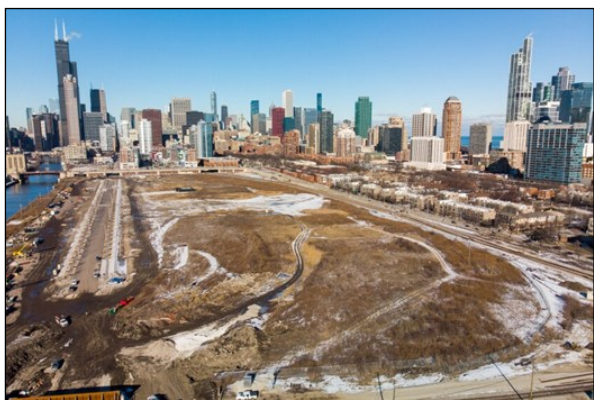
Behind him a drummer propels the song, beating on a galvanized steel washtub on top of a floor tom with brushes. A tall bass player with a shoulder-slung acoustic-electric bass weaves sinuous harmonic lines around the short singer's songs.

The personae in his songs are dark, and desperate young men, which appeals mightily to me. I can relate a bit too closely with the lyrics:

*I take one, one, one cause you left me and
Two, two, two for my family, and
Three, three, three for my heartache and
Four, four, four for my headaches, and
Five, five, five for my lonely, and
Six, six, six for my sorrow, and
Seven, seven—n-n-no tomorrow, and
Eight, eight, I forget what eight was for, but
Nine, nine, nine for the lost god, and
Ten, ten, ten, ten, ten, everything, everything,
everything, everything!*

Their unique sound makes me feel certain that the Violent Femmes are bound for greatness.

Andrew Bendelow



Morningstar billionaire Joe Mansueto plans to build a \$650 million stadium for his Chicago Fire soccer team at "the 78," a vacant tract of land in the South Loop.

Brian Ernst/Sun-Times

Fire plans \$650M stadium in South Loop's long-dormant The 78 tract

Morningstar founder Joe Mansueto chose to build his own stadium at The 78 in part because it's the political path of least resistance, though it will require tens of millions in subsidies for utilities to prep the site.

By Fran Spielman Jun 3, 2025, 5:00am CDT

The billionaire owner of the Chicago Fire FC has agreed to spend \$650 million of his own money to bankroll a 22,000-seat, soccer-only stadium on the vacant South Loop parcel known as "The 78," but tens of millions of public dollars would be needed to ready the long-dormant site for development.

Joe Mansueto, founder and chairperson of Morningstar, a Chicago-based financial services firm, described the open-air arena he hopes to complete and open in time for the 2028 season as "more than just a stadium."

It'll be a place for "fans of all ages, backgrounds and neighborhoods to celebrate the beautiful game" that is soccer "right in the heart of our city," Mansueto said in a full-page advertisement that ran in Tuesday's Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Tribune. "Soccer is the world's game and a world-class city like ours deserves a world-class club with a world-class home to match."

Mansueto, a native Chicagoan who appears on the Forbes list of 400 richest Americans, has spent the last few months weighing a move to one of two mega-development sites stuck in neutral: the 62-acre site at Roosevelt and Clark known as The 78, and the massive North Side parcel known as Lincoln Yards.

He ultimately chose to build the stadium — slated to be designed by the world-renowned Gensler architectural firm — at The 78 in part because it's the political path of least resistance.

A soccer stadium is already a permitted use at The 78. At Lincoln Yards, it would have required an amendment to the parcel's planned development documents, which could have resurrected a heated debate mirroring what happened under former Mayor Rahm Emanuel.



Sketch of the \$650 million stadium that Chicago Fire owner Joe Mansueto wants to build at The 78 in the South Loop. Provided

That's when Ald. Brian Hopkins (2nd) opposed the soccer stadium floated by Lincoln Yards developer Sterling Bay under pressure from the owners of North Side music venues. Also complicating the 53-acre Lincoln Yards site is the question about who owns the land, part of which was recently transferred to an Arkansas bank.

Many projects planned at The 78, but none built

The 78 has no such complications. At 62 acres stretching south to 16th Street, it is one of Chicago's largest undeveloped parcels — and the most strategically located. But it has eluded development for decades.

Once owned by convicted political power broker Tony Rezko, it's been under consideration for Amazon's second world headquarters, a new corporate headquarters for United Airlines, for the home of JPMorganChase and for a Chicago casino now planned for the River West neighborhood.

The push to locate those projects at The 78 never got past the drawing board. Neither did a plan to build a **new White Sox ballpark at The 78**, and perhaps even shoehorn in a domed stadium for the Bears on the same site.

The University of Illinois' \$300 million technology and research hub known as **Discovery Partners Institute** was once planned for The 78, but is now envisioned for the Illinois Quantum & Microelectronics Park on the site of the shuttered U.S. Steel South Works plant.

Those development defeats created the opportunity that Mansueto is seizing to realize his long-standing dream of owning and controlling his own stadium.

"It's about investing in Chicago — not just on match days, but every day as a committed community partner," Mansueto said in the ad published Tuesday.

The 78's losing streak set the stage for developer and land owner Related Midwest and its CEO, Curt Bailey, to take advantage of Mansueto's offer to build his own stadium.

"We were absolutely prepared for how an anchor would work on the site. ... The work that we have done working on giant anchor sites over the last seven to eight years really prepared us so that we kind of had every t crossed and every i dotted as to how we could move quickly to build a great facility," Bailey said.

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

OPINION

Bonnie McGrath December 25, 1948—December 22, 2024. RIP

Her "Opinions" live on. From the Archive July 31st, 2013.

Tony Rezko's 62 Acres of Land--and Me

I have more than a decade of personal history with that now newsy, beleaguered 62 acres of undeveloped "Tony Rezko" land in the South Loop that extends southwest from Roosevelt and Clark. The [land that the City of Chicago suddenly wants to buy](#). And find a developer for.

It all started more than 10 years ago, when the wife of a Cook County Circuit Court judge visited a board meeting of a South Loop neighborhood organization I was on the board of. She came-a-calling to get feedback for a real estate developer she was working for named Tony Rezko. In addition to contributing money to the George W. Bush campaign—which I didn't like—he had purchased the South Loop land and wanted to develop it into something the neighborhood might go for, she said. She asked us board members what we w"A park!" said some. "Townhomes!" said others. "Some nice shops!" said yet another. Rezko, who had a not-so-good reputation in the area for shoddy construction (although he did build some fantastic-looking Gilded Age-looking rowhouses on [Prairie Avenue](#) that knock your socks off they're so pretty and authentic--and expensive--that I always thought he deserved a Key to the City for them), made the board a little suspicious.

Some of us even wanted to keep the land just the way it was. Natural. [Filled with coyotes](#). The [South Loop Elementary School](#) had sponsored a fundraiser run through the plot of land and I was shocked to find that when you ran around within the trees and other vegetation, you had the distinct feeling you were in a nature preserve in the wilds of Wisconsin or Michigan or something. Why not have some truly natural land so near downtown Chicago as a testament to the natural history of Chicago?

Eventually, Rezko had a plan--a mixed use development--drawn up by an architecture firm.

But [Rezko soon had his troubles](#); he got arrested and convicted. And that was the last we heard from the judge's wife. We heard Tony unloaded the land for \$130 million onto a cohort, who perhaps wanted to build a shopping center. And that was that. Except for the fact that whoever bought it razed it. Levelled all the greenery. You'd look down at it from the Roosevelt Road bridge and all that stood out was that stream full of mud that was at one time the Chicago River, a part of which was decades ago abandoned so as to straighten the river out just to the west, to help ease the flow of car traffic through the Loop.

The razing was pretty sad. Although in a short time it got full of foliage again. Which just goes to show. You can't keep good land down.

Now, suddenly, [the City wants the land](#). For a casino, perhaps? Or to resell it to an "appropriate developer?" Whatever it is, Rahm, as usual, is being cryptic and tightlipped and treating us Chicagoans like a bunch of idiots. I suspect if there's no casino planned--owned and run by Rahm's politically connected pals--then there's some politically connected pals waiting in the wings to buy the land for a song, get all [the TIF funds](#) available that they can for constructing some boring piece of trash that no one really wants--and all with no personal investment of the developers' money, mind you. And that will be that. Or will it?

Bonnie McGrath

Visit my blog:

<http://www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant>



Bonnie's take on what would become known as the "76."



Get ready for the summer!

2025 Summer Memberships are now available for purchase.

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SIGN UP NOW FOR THE 2025 SEASON

**Our Pool is located at 1151 South Plymouth Court,
Chicago.**

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**Membership is only open to residents of Dearborn Park, with
boundaries of:**

**Polk Street on the north
15th Street on the south
State Street on the east
Clark Street on the west**

**Please reach out to dearbornparkpool@gmail.com with questions
about memberships or concerns regarding the
pool.**



OPERATION BACKPACK®

Operation Backpack® is an annual drive hosted by VOA Illinois to collect backpacks and school supplies for the youth we serve including children in families experiencing homelessness and children of the Veterans we serve. We know that a child will not be able to succeed in the classroom without the necessary supplies, and that's where you come in!

In addition to providing backpacks to the youth we serve, we also host Back-to-School events open to all community members and we partner with local schools, organizations, and churches to distribute to students in need.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



Virtual

VOA Illinois has created a virtual store for our drive. This store is equipped with backpacks and school supply kits corresponding with different grade levels. Due to Chicago Public Schools having the early start date of August 18, 2025, the online drive will close on July 11th.



In Person

Do you have anyone that prefers to shop in person? No problem! We have included a checklist by grade level of all of the supplies we are asking you to purchase. We are not picky on the brand names that are purchased, however, we ask that all items are purchased new.



Volunteer

Are you looking to volunteer with us during this incredible event? We will have multiple opportunities for you to join us at the office and help us fill, tag, and organize backpacks! For more information, visit our [website](#) or send Sarah an email: skowal@voail.org



Other

If you want to support VOA Illinois, but don't love shopping for school supplies, that's okay! We have several sponsorship opportunities available for our Back-to-School events this year. We are always thankful for the monetary donations that help our essential programs run!



LOCATED IN THE DEARBORN STATION



After "Assessments", few words bring more anxiety to condo boards and their residents than the next two letters of the alphabet...

THE "B" WORD - BUDGETING

--- AND ---

THE "C" WORD - COLLECTIONS

Budgeting: Your building's fiscal year may not be up until January 1, but if your condo manager is good, they're starting your budget NOW, in June. In fact, they should be focusing on your budget all year long --- evaluating how your actual expenses are compared to budget, finding products/projects that are cutting-edge, and looking for new revenue opportunities. Hear how Rose makes it seamless for her Boards.

Condo and Townhome Corner



Monday, July 14, 2025 at 7pm

Café Bionda, 1924 South State Street, Chicago IL

Café
BIONDA

Admission is free.

RSVP is required to:

diana@southloopneighbors.org

Sponsored by:



<https://www.ksnlaw.com/>



<https://www.associachicagoland.com/>



Julie Jacobson, Kovitz Shifrin Nesbit ---

Since 2001, Julie has been a litigator focusing on representing condo associations. She has handled a significant number of [collection](#) matters, evictions and breach of contract cases. Julie thrives in the courtroom, logging thousands of hours in Cook and collar county courts. She has taught seminars and led roundtable discussions on collections; spoken frequently at industry trade shows and community seminars; written numerous articles outlining condo associations' financial situations and the collection of past due assessments.



Rose Rogic, Associa Chicagoland ----

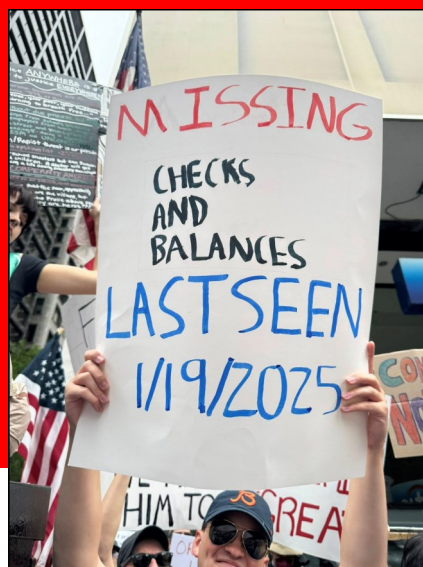
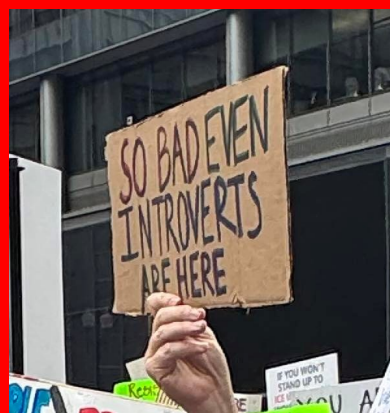
With 18 years of experience in residential property management for complex communities in the Chicago region, Rose has overseen diverse teams of regional directors, property managers, and onsite staff. She has held several senior leadership roles, overseeing diverse managers and challenging associations. She has focused on strategic planning, team development, and operational leadership to help associations meet their financial and organizational goals.

No Kings March

June 14th, 2025

Chicago, Illinois

All Photos by Jim Wales





Second Presbyterian Church *presents*

Sounds of the South Loop

Season 2025 - 2026

- Saturday, June 28th, 2025, 7:30pm - South Loop Symphony Orchestra , Pops Concert
- Thursday, July 17th, 2025, 7:30pm - Dickinson Ensemble
- Thursday, August 21st, 2025, 7:30pm - Tony Krempa Baroque Ensemble
- Saturday, August 23rd, 2025, 7:30pm - Lyric Opera Stage Artists
- Thursday, September 18th, 2025, 7:30pm - Silver Rose Duo Guitar and Flute
- Thursday, October 16th, 2025, 7:30pm - Sapphire Wind Quartet
- Thursday, November 20th, 2025, 7:30pm
- Saturday, November 22nd, 2025, 7:30pm - South Loop Symphony Orchestra

Program Director: Bula Bulicek | Music Director: Mike Shawgo

All concerts available with a suggested donation of \$25. Season Ticket: **\$150**. Please use QR code for donations.



www.2ndPresbyterian.org/SIso



All concerts held at:
Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 S Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL. 60616
Parking available on the north side of the building.

The Rise of Car Theft in Chicago: Causes and Targeted Models

Car theft has been a persistent issue in Chicago, with certain models being stolen at alarming rates. While overall auto thefts have declined in recent years, specific vehicles remain prime targets for criminals. This article explores the reasons behind car theft in Chicago and identifies the most frequently stolen models.

Reasons for Car Theft in Chicago

1. **Organized Crime and Vehicle Use in Other Crimes** Many stolen cars are not simply dismantled for parts but are used in **robberies, carjackings, and even ATM thefts**. Criminals prefer vehicles that offer speed, durability, and ease of access.

Security Vulnerabilities in Certain Models Some vehicles, particularly **older Kia and Hyundai models**, lacked proper security features, making them easy targets. Manufacturers have updated security features.

• Social Media Influence

Online trends have contributed to the rise in car thefts. Videos demonstrating how to hotwire certain models have encouraged thefts, particularly among younger offenders.

1. **High Demand for Luxury and Performance Vehicles** Thieves often target **high-end brands like Lexus, Dodge, and Jeep**. These vehicles are sometimes stolen for resale or used in crimes due to their powerful engines and durability.

Technological Advancements in Theft Prevention While **license plate reader technology** has helped law enforcement recover stolen vehicles faster, criminals continue to adapt. Some use sophisticated methods to bypass security systems.

Most Targeted Car Models

- **Lexus vehicles** saw a **155% increase in thefts** in 2024, with over 400 stolen.

- **Jeep models** experienced a **28% rise**, with **1,700 stolen**.

Dodge vehicles, particularly SUVs, were frequently used in crimes, with over **1,500 stolen**.

Car thefts in Chicago have **declined overall**, but certain models remain highly targeted. Here are the latest statistics:

- **Overall car thefts dropped by 27% in 2024** compared to 2023, with **23,135 reported cases**.

- **Luxury Lexus vehicles** saw a **155% increase in thefts**, with over **400 stolen** in 2024—the highest number in over a decade.

- **Jeep thefts rose by 28%**, with **1,700 stolen** in 2024.

- **Dodge models** saw a **6% increase**, with over **1,500 stolen**.

Kia and Hyundai thefts declined significantly after manufacturers updated security software.

Law enforcement credits **license plate reader technology** for helping recover stolen vehicles faster. However, stolen cars are increasingly being used in **robberies, ATM thefts, and other crimes** rather than being dismantled for parts.

*ABC 7 CHICAGO CBS MSN

Despite the decline in thefts, **car break-ins remain a problem**, particularly in areas like **South Loop**, where thieves recently targeted **at least 13 parked vehicles** in residential and public garages. Law enforcement continues to adapt to emerging threats, but the persistence of auto theft underscores the need for **community awareness and preventive measures**.
ABC 7 CHICAGO



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 July 16, 2025
3pm, ZOOM
Beat 123

caps.001district@chicagopolice.org



Police Blotter



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

6/2/2025 3pm 50 E 14th St
CYCLE/SCOOTER OR BIKE THEFT on Street Beat 131

6/1/2025 5:52 pm 1600 s Michigan Ave
ARMED ROBBERY Small Store Beat 131

5/29/2025 11:18PM 1500 S State
THEFT FROM CAR Parking lot Beat 131

5/25/2025 8am 1700 S State
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Beat 131

5/22/2025 10:30pm 2100 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT on Street, Beat 131

5/31/2025 7pm 1400 S Prairie
AUTO THEFT on Street Bet 132

5/26/2025 9:50pm 1400 S Michigan
AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 132

5/25/2025 9:30pm 1200 S Prairie
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No weapon on Sidewalk

5/24/2025 10:55 pm 1400 S Museum Campus Dr
POCKET PICKING Soldier Field Beat

5/22/2025 2300 S Michigan
AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 132

5/31/2025 7pm 1400 S Prairie
AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 132

6/3/2025 8:30pm 600 S State
AUTO THEFT Non Res Parking lot Beat 123

6/3/2025 8pm 500 S Plymouth Ct
ELECTRIC BIKE/SCOOTER THEFT Street Beat 123

6/2/2025 6pm 900 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT Non Res Parking lot Beat 123

6/1/2025 4:30pm 600 S State
AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 123

5/31/2024 1:45pm 500 s Federal
ARMED ROBBERY Handgun on Street Beat 123

5/29/2025 4:30am 800 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 123

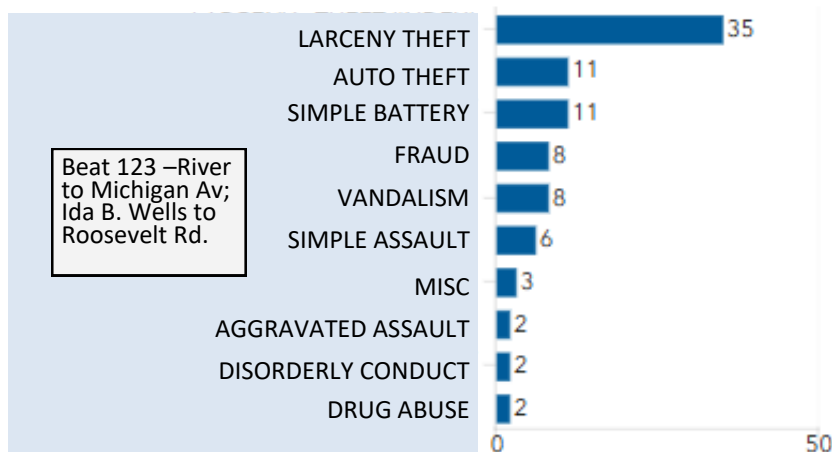
5/27/2025 8:45 am 600 S Financial PL
AUTO THEFT, Non Res Parking Garage Beat 123

5/15/2025 11:20pm X E 9th St
AUTO THEFT RECOVERY Beat 123

5/24/2025 7:25 800 S Michigan
AGGRAVATED CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT Non Aggravated
Dearborn Park Beat 123

Top 10 Crimes

PERIOD May 17 TO May 25, 2025



Stranger touched young girls at South Loop playground, police warn

June 13, 2025 10:41

AM CWBChicago South Loop
Surveillance images of the suspect. (Chicago Police Department)

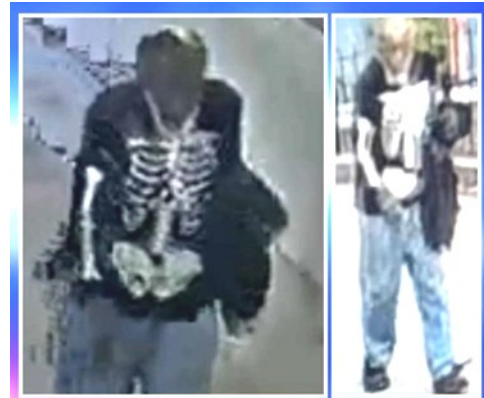
Chicago police are searching for an unidentified man accused of aggravated criminal sexual abuse of children at Jones Park in the South Loop on Wednesday evening.

The incident occurred around 7:37 p.m. on June 11 in the 1200 block of South Plymouth Court, right next door to South Loop Elementary School. Three girls were playing at the park's playground when the man approached. He allegedly grabbed one minor as she crawled on playground equipment. He then sat next to another girl, engaged in brief conversation, and touched her inappropriately, police said.

The girls left the playground, but the offender briefly followed them before fleeing northbound through the Plymouth Court tunnel.

The suspect is described as Black, 60-70 years old, with a bald head, grey or white facial hair, missing teeth, and at least one gold tooth. He was wearing a black long-sleeve shirt with a white skeleton decal and blue jeans.

Police urge residents to remain vigilant, report suspicious activity, and alert others in the community. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Special Investigations Unit at 312-492-3810 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com, referencing case #JJ290867.



<https://cwbchicago.com/>

5/23/2025 12:30pm 900 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT Non Res Parking lot Beat 123

5/20/2025 11:14 pm 800 S State St
AUTO THEFT on Street Beat 123

5/19/2025 10:29 pm 1000 S Clark St
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, Knife Beat 123

Real Estate Transactions

\$415,000
720 S DEARBORN ST 803
5/16/25

\$314,000
1515 S PRAIRIE AVE 809
5/12/25

\$1,950,000
1345 S FEDERAL ST
5/9/25

\$270,000
125 E 13TH ST 515
5/7/25

\$255,000
1101 S STATE ST 1006
5/6/25

\$775,000
1160 S MICHIGAN 1607
5/5/25

\$610,000
100 E 14TH ST 1810
5/2/25

\$190,000
40 E 9TH ST 709
5/1/25

\$975,000
1335 S INDIANA AVE
5/1/25

\$3,050,000
1300 S WABASH AVE
4/30/25

\$217,500
899 S PLYMOUTH CT 1005
4/30/25

\$420,000
547 S CLARK ST 801
4/29/25

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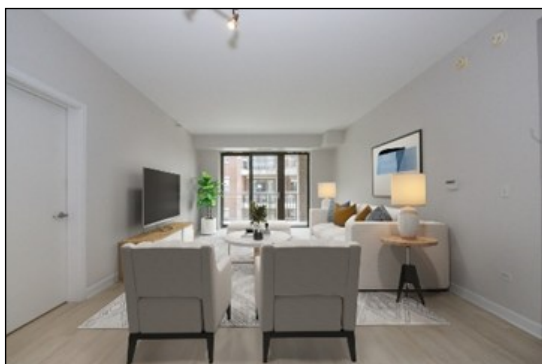


Anne Rosen
Keller Williams
312.545.7148

Susan Dickman - Koenigrubloff/
Berkshire Hathaway Home
773-627-8176

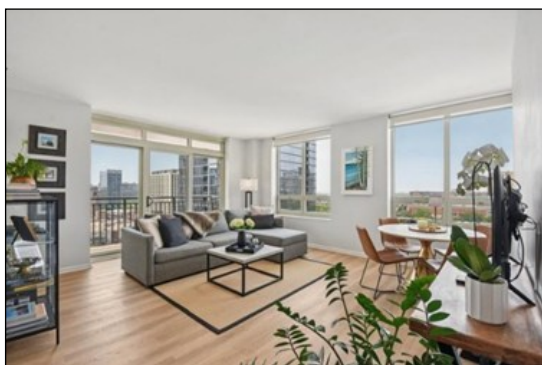
Susandickman.com





1111 S State St Unit A505
2 Bed, 2 bath, 1398 Sq Ft HOA \$1105
\$400,000

Anne Rosen
Keller Williams Infinity
312.545.7148



1111 S Wabash #1410
2 bed, 2 bath 1200 Sq Ft HOA \$728
\$425,000

Mike Saladino
Keller Williams ONEChicago
773.232.4979



1322 S Prairie Ave #1413
2 bed, 2 bath, 1330 sq ft
\$525,000 HOA \$890

Tom Brandt
Keller Williams Rlty Partners
773.230.6997

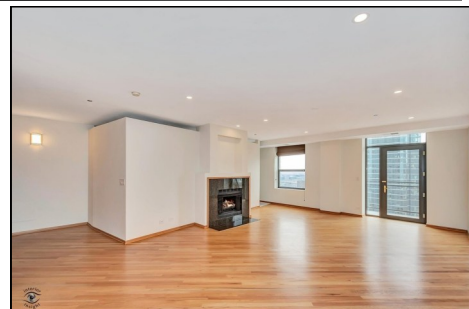
5 E 14th Pl #602
1 bed, 1 bath, 900 sq ft
\$290,000 HOA \$532

Alex Bok
Cross Street Real Estate
630.362.1937



910 S Michigan Ave #1712
2 bed, 1.5 bath, 1250 sq ft
\$390,000 HOA \$1776

Wendy Cobrin
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices Chicago
312.446.4406



1503 S State #501
2 bed, 2 bath, 1200 sq ft
\$349,000 HOA \$543

Christopher Everhardt
HomeSmart Connect LLC
312.625.5423



124 W Polk St #603
1 bed, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft
\$299,918 HOA \$452

Darrell Scott
Compass
212.913.9058



780 S Federal St #605
1 bed/ 1 bath 750 Sq Ft
HOA \$590
\$189,000

Sonia Figueroa
Turn Key Realty Solutions
773.308.5505



100 E 14th St #2409
2 bed/ 2 bath 1248 sq ft
\$520,000 HOA \$790

Lorenzo Garth
HomeSmart Connect LLC
224.7701287

