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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR
JANICE KOERBER, ASST. EDITOR

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Chicago Rise

It was an amazing and busy week here in Chicago. No wonder it was voted by Conde Nast readers their favorite large city to visit; 9th year in a row. Over 50,000 runners from all over the world and all those who came to cheer them on. A fun event. Then this immediate past weekend with the "NO KINGS" rally and march. If you were there, it was something to behold. Half of us couldn't get close enough to hear the speakers. At the same time, OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO sponsored by the Chicago Architecture Center opened doors to hundreds of buildings across the city. Places where you usually don't see. In the evening, a popular parade, the ARTS IN THE DARK Halloween Parade packed the sidewalks on State Street. We attended all three events, choosing to participate in the OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO on Sunday in Hyde Park. On our way back taking the L, we encountered Bear fans. Can't forget "Da Bears" winning their fourth game in a row.



Protesters arriving via Jackson Blvd at an already full Butler Field. PHOTO:

October 20, 2025

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JAZZ SHOWCASE

Mon, Oct 20, 8pm & 10pm.....	Dakarai Barclay Quintet
Tue, Oct 21, 8pm & 10pm.....	Kyle Swan Quartet
Wed, Oct 22, 8pm & 10pm.....	Kobie Watkins
Thu-Sat, Oct 22-25, 8pm & 10pm.....	Isaiah Collier: Collier Plays Coltrane
Sun, Oct 26, 4pm & 8pm.....	Isaiah Collier: Collier Plays Coltrane
Mon, Oct 27, 7:30.....	John Wojchiechowski w/ Albert Einstein Gymnasium Big Band
Tue, Oct 28, 7pm.....	Roosevelt University CCPA
Wed, Oct 29, 5pm.....	Bob Lark Alumni Big Bank
Thu-Sat, Oct 30-Nov 1, 8pm & 10pm.....	Harry Allen & Andy Brown Quartet
Sun, Nov 2, 4pm & 8pm.....	Harry Allen & Andy Brown Quartet
Mon, Nov 3, 8pm & 10pm.....	Diego Rodriguez Big Band
Tue, Nov 4, 8pm & 10pm.....	Petra's Recession Seven
Wed, Nov 5, 8pm & 10pm.....	Bob Lark Septet
Thu-Sat, Nov 6-8, 8pm & 10pm.....	Mike Stern Quintet
Sun, Nov 9, 4pm & 8pm.....	Mike Stern Quintet



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South Loop Neighbors

South Loop Neighbors is a non-profit membership based organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in South Loop's neighborhoods and preserving the area's landmark districts.

South Loop Neighbors represents South Loop residents who are concerned about:

- ☐ Ensuring high-quality, reasonably-sized real estate development as well as infrastructure improvements that respect the unique character of our community
- ☐ Preserving and protecting the area's Landmark Districts, including Printing House Row and Historic Michigan Boulevard
- ☐ Promoting quality education, recreation, services, retail, community activities, and events
- ☐ Maintaining a socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhood
- ☐ Developing strong relationships with key city officials to ensure they respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community. South Loop Neighbors serves members and residents within the area bounded by Congress Parkway to approximately 25th Street and from the

Chicago River to Lake Michigan.

www.southloopneighbors.org

South Loop Neighbors

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Development Update—August 2025

We are excited to restart our development updates, which provide information on major real estate news and progress in South Loop! We maintain a table of proposed, approved, in construction, or recently completed projects and will include photos and updates on select projects each month.

[CLICK HERE FOR UPDATES](#)



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Halloween Costume Contest



See Page 5 for details

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.



Dismiss theater critics you disagree with, or learn from them?

By **Marianne Goss** Saturday, October 11, 2025

Note to *Chicago Tribune* critic Chris Jones:

Hi, Chris.

I was surprised by all of the reviews highly recommending Mr. Wolf.

[Deleted my thoughts about the play, which most readers of this blog probably haven't seen.]

What I'm really writing about is that my reactions so often don't converge with the critics' that it makes me feel I'm not bright or perceptive, despite evidence to the contrary in other aspects of my life. Or maybe I'm not sophisticated for a cutting-edge theater like Steppenwolf. But isn't theater for ordinary folks, too?

Thanks for listening.

Marianne Goss

Jones replied reassuringly that he could see my position.

Fourteen of the 15 reviews on theaterinchicago.com gave Steppenwolf Theatre's *Mr. Wolf* a "highly recommended." I didn't dislike the play but wasn't wowed. How could the brilliance have escaped me?

The theaters I attend the most are Steppenwolf and the Goodman because I usher at both. I avoid reading anything about a play beforehand, especially not reviews, so that I go with an open mind.

Reading reviews afterward, I look for points of agreement and insights. I don't diverge from the critics all the time, but they often like a play more than I do, and then I wonder whether their superior knowledge of drama is why we differ.

My note to Chris Jones suggested that ordinary patrons shouldn't have to wonder what all the fuss was about. But I changed direction after reading [a post](#) by theater journalist Michael Portantiere *Broadway Star's* website.

"Don't the anti-intellectual argument that critics are superfluous because 'the public knows best,'" wrote. "There has always been and always will be great value in the opinions of people who have education, training, and/or experience in a certain field."



Maybe what I don't get presents an opportunity to learn. Reviewers may teach me things.

Using a painting analogy, said, "If you're unimpressed by a painting that's generally considered a masterpiece or, conversely, if you love a work that many critics view as negligible, I think it behooves you to at least try to understand why others strongly disagree with you. . . . I shudder to imagine what the Broadway landscape might have looked like over the decades if there had been no discerning critics around to help push people towards the good stuff and away from the schlock."

If you consistently disagree with particular reviewers, Portantiere said, can avoid their reviews, "but it should be kept in mind that we often learn the most from people with whom we disagree."

How does one find trustworthy critics in the internet age, when online review sites proliferate and their contributors may have no formal credentials? I skim the reviews that theater in chicago.com aggregates from many sites. If a reviewer writes well — that I'm more qualified to judge — and does more than summarize the plot, I pay more attention.

I don't want to turn theatergoing into an academic chore. I believe there is a place for pure entertainment or I wouldn't read so many mystery novels or watch so many detective stories on TV. But Steppenwolf and the Goodman did not achieve their stellar reputations by believing it's enough that audiences enjoy the show. If every play were comfortable and familiar, I expect I'd get bored and stop attending.

[COMMENT](#)

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



Mother and Son at the "NO KINGS" Rally. Photo Oct 18, 2025



Blocking traffic on Lake Shore Drive and Jackson Blvd.



Former George Diamond Restaurant location at 626 S Wabash.

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Photo: 10/17/2025.

Donna Hippensteel, Staff Photographer

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The Improbable Victoria Woodhull by Eden Collinsworth (Doubleday 2025).

"I am a Free Lover. I have an inalienable, constitutional and natural right to love whom I may, to love as long or as short a period as I can; to change that love every day if I please, and with that right neither you nor any law you can frame have any right to interfere" thrice-married provocateur, progressive reformer, suffragist, healer, huckster, millionaire—and apparently quite comely—Victoria Woodhull reminded an audience of 3000 at New York City's prestigious Steinway Hall (which later hosted Charles Dickens and Mark Twain) that she was no ordinary woman. Free love was her answer to forced marriages, laws and social codes against divorce, and the lack of a franchise for half the US population. Eden Collinsworth's choice of adjective for her title—not likely to be true—is apt and audacious, since much of her subject's life described in **The Improbable Victoria Woodhull**, is both incredible fact and temerarious fiction. One of ten children, she was born in Homer, Licking County, Ohio, to a "con man...a swindler...and a cheat," who "forced [her] to perform as a child clairvoyant...and starved her "for days...to enhance [her] performance," Vicky was able to support her entire family on the money she made talking to spirits. Victoria fled the midwest, after neighbors threatened to tar and feather her low-living dad; another one of her nocturnal visions moved her to San Francisco, and then to New York, where she met Cornelius Vanderbilt, a quintessential Scrooge, who relied on her spiritual

tips to buy and sell stock to great advantage. England. He then helped her become to first female stockbroker, as which she made her own fortune. A dream moved her again to Europe, on Vanderbilt Junior's money, where she married the third richest man in England. Along the way, she ran for US president (twice) opened a newspaper to support her ambitions, and was jailed under the notorious Comstock Act for revealing, in detail too lurid and interesting, the adultery of well-known clergyman **Henry Ward Beecher** (Harriet Beecher Stowe's uncle) with his young parishioner. At the outset of the book, we learn of Victoria's libel lawsuit against the British Museum, and its staid director, Richard Garnett, whose temperament "was constant, almost to a metaphorical degree. The library—with its silence and order that removed him from life's disarray—is where he spent most of his time." In the aftermath of the suit, undecided by a hung jury, Collinsworth used the clever conceit of Mr. Garman's doing research about his tempestuous antagonist in his own library. The author, after a blistering but brilliant, well-researched chronicle of Mrs. Woodhull's and a blink-or-you'll-miss-it but fascinating history of America from the 1860's to the early 20th Century, hopes that Mr. Garnett's look at a "person whose good and less good instincts cohabited in her" made him "think again about everything." Collinsworth's perfect prose might have the same effect on you.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park / October 2025

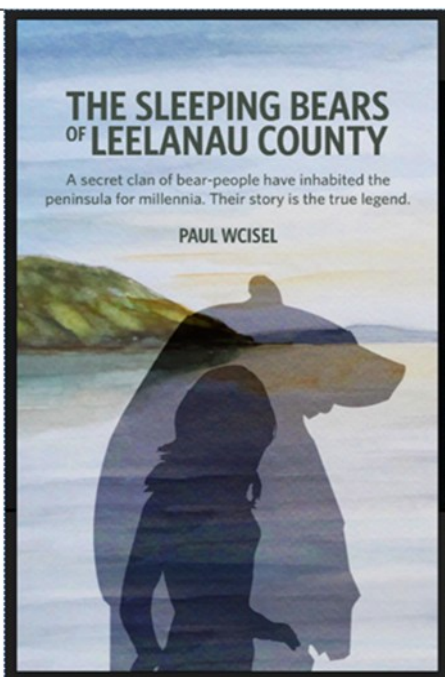


A new novel by
local author,
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(paulwcisel.com)

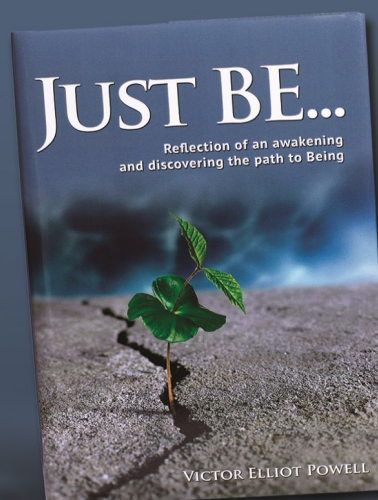
In a remote corner of northern Michigan, the residents of Leelanau County have a secret society that has been living on the peninsula for thousands of years. They are the bear-transforming descendants of tribes who crossed Lake Michigan millennia ago to escape the destruction of their clan.

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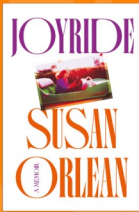
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IN PERSON  **AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM**

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October 24 | 6:00 pm CT

Author Talk: Susan Orlean, "Joyride" (IN PERSON)

From the beloved *New Yorker* writer **Susan Orlean**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Orchid Thief* and *The Library Book* and hailed as "a national treasure" by *The Washington Post*, *Joyride* is a masterful memoir of finding her creative calling and purpose that invites us to approach life with wonder, curiosity, and an irrepressible

sense of delight.

Join us at the American Writers Museum to hear Orlean discuss her new memoir. Orlean will be interviewed by Chris Borrelli. Books will be available for purchase, and Orlean will sign them following the program.

This is an in person program at the American Writers Museum. This program will also be livestreamed, and you can [register for the link to the online broadcast here](#).



American Writers Museum
 180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor
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<https://americanwritersmuseum.org/>



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

Beth Finke



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GREG BORZO



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LUMA8 and the City of Chicago return with the 11th Annual *Arts in the Dark Halloween Parade*, a family-friendly event featuring unique floats, spectacle puppets, and all forms of creative performance on Saturday, October 18 on State Street.

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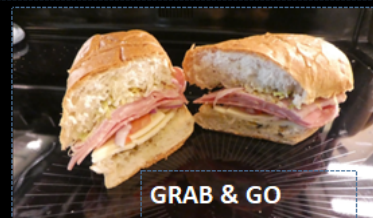
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OPINION

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.

Regan Burke Rerun



Broadview: Silent Resistance

October 20, 2025

The announcement of a “Peace is our Protest” silent meditation hit my incoming a few weeks ago. I asked my Zoom meditation group to join me at The Broadview ICE Detention Center outside Chicago.

“I thought you were joking!” Rita said afterwards.

And why wouldn’t she think it was a joke? Since the start of the Trump Administration’s Operation Midway Blitz in late 2025, Broadview has been newsworthy. Masked men in military costumes with automatic weapons shoot protesters in the head with pepper balls that explode into disabling chemicals. Demonstrators have been wrestled to the ground, zip-tied and arrested. Who in our group of graying meditators with varying degrees of mobility and vitality would be going someplace like that?

Well, Abigail and I did go. It was an easy drive. We arrived early. There were a few people already settled on their meditation mats, facing west. We set our lawn chairs down behind them. All was quiet. Two noisy protesters yelled out from time to time but experienced meditators treat ambient noise as neutral thoughts, not sound. We followed their piety and remained unstirred. Silent. Eyes closed. Forty-five minutes passed. A gong sounded. We stretched.

“Look behind us,” Abigail whispered.

Over my shoulder I caught sight of about two hundred people. Sitting. Quietly. These valorous contemplatives came in behind us and squatted so softly we had no idea they were even there.

“I tried silent protesting and it never works!” A noisy bystander on a bike screamed at us.

No one responded. No one felt compelled to yell back, argue, persuade. We remained silent.

An unnamed man read a passage from Gandhi on non-violent resistance. We then folded our chairs and walked softheartedly to the car. As I passed by an Illinois State Trooper, he locked eyes with mine and said, “Thank you for coming.”

Broadview, an immigration processing center constructed in the 1970s, is a spit from the interstate highway leading to downtown Chicago. For thirteen years, a vigil at Broadview has been organized by the Interfaith Community for



Detained Immigrants. Every Friday morning, Sisters of Mercy Pat Murphy and JoAnn Persch have led peacekeepers in prayer for detainees, some of whom are in transit to other facilities or are awaiting deportation.

“We are brothers and sisters, and it doesn’t make any difference the color of our skin or our religion or the country we come from,” Sister Murphy says, “we believe in one human being to another, a theology of presence.”

At the silent meditation protest we neither asked for nor received answers. No conclusions. No changes. No one needed to be there. We came to be present. A living theology of presence. I call this God. Others call it something else — the universe, spiritual essence, nature, mindfulness, other God names.

A week later the whole world watched millions peacefully protest at No Kings’ rallies. In Chicago, I walked all around the Butler Field rally in Grant Park and saw very few hateful slogans on signs. I’ve never seen such a noble protest. We marched up Michigan Avenue converging with streams of others walking from the south and west carrying woke messages.

Love not hate.

Faith Over Fear.

Love Your Neighbor.

The Woodstock Nation. Long may it last.

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





Assistant Editor Janis Koerber with Al Hippensteel, Editor of the Dearborn Express At Printers Row Park. Where there are 26 more of these Scarecrows sponsored by local businesses.

Printers Row Park Newly Designated Lock Parking Lot

A seemingly common urban practice for realtors is to attach lockboxes to nearby public structures (fences, benches, etc.) to enable them, or others to whom they give the combination, to place keys/fobs that provide access to secured properties. A stroll through any neighborhood park often reveals plenty of hidden and not-so-hidden lockboxes.

Visitors to Printers Row Park will notice signage directing people to a newly designated area for lockboxes, the boundaries of which are defined with yellow tape on the trellis at the northwest corner of the park. Anyone wishing to utilize this lock parking lot is welcome to do so. Lockboxes attached in Printers Row Park outside of the yellow tape or in other areas of the park will be removed and disposed of by the Chicago Park District. Notices about this policy were publicly posted in Printers Row Park in June and all lockboxes that remained outside of the designated area were removed in September.

Bestsellers

Heart the Lover
A NOVEL
LILY KING
New York Times Bestselling Author of *When History Comes*

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From the New York Times bestselling author of *BEIGE*
ALI HAZELWOOD

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SANDMEYER'S BOOKSTORE



From Newcity Today

By Brian Hieggelke, October 1, 2025

We went to Brasilia last year

Primarily designed by the country's patron saint of architecture, the late Oscar Niemeyer, Brazil's national capital is like none other, sprung from thin air at the end of the 1950s, a utopian vision of democracy. In the biggest designed city ever built, every building, every landscape works together in a way that we've never seen before, and may never see again.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city is described by that entity as a place in which "urban planner Lucio Costa and architect Oscar Niemeyer intended that every element—from the layout of the residential and administrative districts (often compared to the shape of a bird in flight) to the symmetry of the buildings themselves—should be in harmony with the city's overall design."

Perhaps it is humanity's greatest attempt to create paradise, built in less than four years and inaugurated in 1960. And less than four years later, a coup d'état, backed by the United States, overthrew that democracy and established a military dictatorship that would sustain authoritarian repression for more than two decades. Paradise lost.

Brasilia has been back in the news as that country's former president, Jair Bolsonaro, the "Trump of the Tropics," was tried and convicted for plotting to overturn the election that turned him out of office. His refusal to accept the election results led to a January storming of the national capital in a striking parallel to our own January 6 insurrection two years earlier, with images of the desecration of Niemeyer's sleek modern edifices replacing our own neoclassical Capitol chaos.

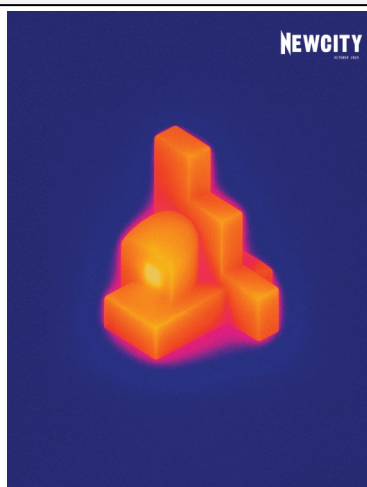
And yet again, the United States has tried to interfere with the politics of Brazil, with President Trump imposing fifty-percent tariffs on the second-largest country in the Americas for its refusal to obey him and drop the charges against his would-be protégé, charges that ended in the sort of justice in defense of democracy that America failed to accomplish and from which it now suffers the consequences.

One of those consequences is Trump's recent edict about the architecture of federal buildings, banning modern and contemporary design in favor of Greek and Roman revival. Where Brazil once endeavored to design its way into the future, the United States is now pursuing a vision of someone else's ancient past.

It doesn't have to be that way, especially now as the eyes of world architecture turn toward North America's shrine of modernism, Chicago. The Chicago Architecture Biennial gives us, and the world, a chance to collectively say, what if?

What if, for example, the government had once commissioned Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright or Mies van der Rohe to design an entire city? Or Helmut Jahn or Jeanne Gang?

The mind reels at the possibilities.



House of Fire by Paradigma Ariadne is part of the Chicago Architecture Biennial 6 "Shift: Architecture in Times of

IN THIS ISSUE

A Golden Ratio

Taking the measure of Thomas Pynchon's "Shadow Ticket"

Overture to Mäkelä

An early and close-up look at the Chicago Symphony music director designate

The Early Shift

Newcity takes on the Chicago Architecture Biennial 2025

Southern Exposure: A conversation with Florencia Rodriguez, the artistic director of the Chicago Architecture Biennial, and Dirk Denison, director of the Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize Building With Light: The unexpected video stardom of architect Stewart Hicks

The Architecture of Logistics: Clare Lyster on mapping the systems of the city

CAB at Ten: What is the Chicago Architecture Biennial legacy?

Plus thirteen projects in profile

AND

Poetry

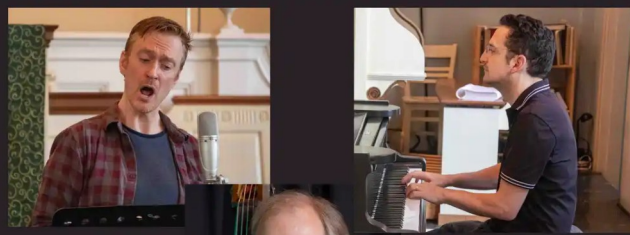
"Concentric Architectures"

A new poem by Rebecca Morgan Frank

And so much more...

NEWCITY newcity.com

EAR TAXI FESTIVAL 2025 – Myths and Accidents-Vocal Music by Dog Lofstrom October 24@8pm-9:30pm



Ryan De Ryke, baritone and Daniel Schlosberg, piano perform songs from the new Divine Art/Diversions CD "Myths and Accidents." De Ryke and Schlosberg will present three songs cycles by Doug Lofstrom: All Must End, Myths and Accidents and Three Sandburg Songs, which will be a world premiere. The artists have worked with the composer over the last several years to bring Lofstrom's vocal works to fruition. The album presents the three song cycles along with Three Scenes from Lofstrom's opera Two Soldiers, featuring De Ryke and Schlosberg as well as soprano Kimberly Jones, tenor Ryan Townsend Strand and a chamber orchestra conducted by the composer.

TICKETS \$25

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NEWCITY newcity.com

ONE COMMUNITY NEAR SOUTH SPONSORS A SOUTH LOOP ALDERS MEETING



Marj Halprin sets the tone at the beginning of the meeting. Alders present were Tim Conway, Pat Dowell, Lamont Robinson and Nicole Lee

On Tuesday, October 14th at Grace Place, 1One Community Near South sponsored an Alder Forum: "Let's Talk. Because the South Loop is split five ways, it's difficult to call your alderman when they only represent a slice of the geography. Hence, this organization, twice a year, attempts to attract the alderman, in this case, four, to a forum to hear their responses on common concerns and problems we all have. The alderman who attended were Pat Dowell (3rd ward), Bill Conway (34th), Lamont Robinson (4th) and Nicole Lee (11th). The theme guiding the questions were as follows. "How can the City further respond to ICE and the National Guard? What's the latest on The 78? Affordable housing, granny flats, looming new taxes, public safety.

When asked what concerns them the most and what they look forward to, Alderman Conway stated that his biggest concern is ICE. He mentioned the incident that occurred just outside of World Language Academy and the stress on students and parents. And another big concern is the upcoming City of Chicago Budget.

Alderman Dowell mentioned State of the Budget as a high priority, preserving Public Safety, and thirdly, maintaining infrastructure.

Lamont Robinson stated that with all the negative publicity aimed at the city, he says Tourism is hurting.

Nicole Lee said she is encouraged by the non-violent actions of neighbors to respond quickly to ICE in their neighborhood/ recording and documenting actions of ICE. She also encouraged the audience to know your rights, report where ICE is. Patronize local businesses and bear witness.

Also reported on was the new Sheriffs Office on State and Roosevelt. There have been 123 arrests and 143 Traffic stops since their locating there several months ago.

Other topics? The 78 has been approved for the new stadium. No housing is scheduled for this first phase. There are barriers to access because of the railroad tracks. And a concern of gentrification on the south end that abuts Chinatown.

Everybody on the panel supports a new high school for the South Loop. But acknowledged that CPS is in no position to act on it or fund it.



Standing room only crowd at Grace Place.



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Argentina Vs. Puerto Rico Soccer Match Moved From Chicago To Florida Amid ICE Fears

Soccer fans who planned to catch the match with Lionel Messi at Soldier Field this weekend are out of luck. The change comes as Chicago has faced a surge in immigration enforcement activity.

by Jamie Nesbitt Golden October 9, 2025

SOUTH LOOP — Soccer fans who'd hoped to catch a glimpse of Lionel Messi in Chicago this weekend are out of luck: The match between Argentina and Puerto Rico is moving to Florida.

The two teams were scheduled to play Saturday at Soldier Field as part of a series of "friendlies" while the International Federation of Association Football, known as FIFA, takes a break. Messi was set to play in matches against Puerto Rico and Venezuela this weekend, according to The Associated Press. The game will now be played at Fort Lauderdale's Chase Stadium.

The change of venue was due to low ticket sales, said Luca Serra, director of Marketing & PR for Legends Global, the firm representing Soldier Field.

But the change comes as Chicago has faced a surge in immigration enforcement activity, with federal agents arresting 1,000 people in and around Chicago since launching operations Midway Blitz and At Large last month.

The activity has left many fearful and confused, with tensions increasing this week after President Donald Trump federalized the National Guard, calling up troops in Illinois and sending troops from Texas to the Chicago area — over local officials' objections.

The Puerto Rican team was set to visit the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, museum CEO Billy Ocasio said in a statement where he expressed disappointment over the game's venue change.

"This decision is President Trump's attempt to impose economic sanctions on the City of Chicago for being a Sanctuary City," Ocasio said in the statement. "Hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors to our city are now left scrambling to change flights and cancel hotel reservations. It doesn't just hurt the teams or the fans; it robs Chicago of an opportunity to celebrate unity, culture and pride.

"The message is clear: Donald Trump is willing to punish entire communities to make a political point. But our message is just as clear: Chicago's Puerto Rican community will not be intimidated or silenced. We stand firm in our values, our culture, and our love for this city."



Soccer star Lionel Messi plays for Argentina. Credit: Instagram/@afaseleccion

The potential for increased ICE presence at soccer matches has been a concern for clubs and fans since Trump took office earlier this year. With the United States and Mexico cohosting the World Cup next year, FIFA officials worry the immigration enforcement activities may affect ticket sales for the event.

CNN reported in June that low ticket sales were already affecting games played at venues in Los Angeles, with fans opting out in solidarity or in fear for their safety. Los Angeles has also been the site of increased immigration enforcement activity.

Block Club Chicago

<https://blockclubchicago.org/>

City Will Not Be Plowing Sidewalks Anytime Soon As Measure Fails In Council

Despite only including two pilot zones, alderpeople were skeptical of Plow The Sidewalk's feasibility and potential to incur lawsuits against the city. Advocates argue the service would help older Chicagoans and those with disabilities.

by Quinn Myers October 6, 2025

CHICAGO — A proposal to plow sidewalks in select areas around Chicago was blocked by two City Council committees Friday after opponents criticized the program as unnecessary and raised concerns about potential lawsuits against the city.

For years, advocates and some alderpeople have pushed the city to implement the Plow the Sidewalks pilot program, which would use city resources to clear snowy sidewalks that pose safety and logistical obstacles to neighbors, especially older Chicagoans and those with disabilities.

Continues on next page

Sidewalk plow proposal from previous page

The movement gained traction in 2023, when City Council passed an ordinance to create a Plow The Sidewalks working group to determine how and where the pilot could be implemented.

That group released a report in May 2024 recommending four pilot zones be created for the city-run sidewalk clearing operation. But despite the City Council allocating \$500,000 to the program in the 2025 budget, it had yet to be fully approved.

A separate ordinance required to determine the program's parameters was introduced by Ald. Daniel La Spata (1st) in February and finally was debated Friday during a joint hearing of the council's transportation and pedestrian safety committees.

The legislation would have created a more limited pilot with only two zones on the South and Southwest sides, where city workers would have cleared snow up to seven times this winter.



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But amid concerns over scalability and the city's looming \$1.15 billion budget deficit for 2026, most alderpeople voted against the measure or declined to vote while still participating in the meeting virtually. The ordinance was defeated by a 13-4 vote.

La Spata, the council's chief backer of the pilot, admitted that Plow the Sidewalks was likely dead for the remainder of the current council term, which runs through spring 2027.

"We know that it's logistically feasible. We know that many Chicagoans believe it's necessary," he said after the meeting. "The political will isn't there, so we work on the political will."

La Spata said he hopes to see the \$500,000 already allocated for the pilot to be used for other accessibility initiatives in the city.

Currently, Chicago landlords can be fined \$50-\$500 for not shoveling or plowing the sidewalk in front of their buildings after a snowstorm.

But sporadic reporting and enforcement often leads to stretches of sidewalk covered in snow and ice for days or longer. That creates hazardous conditions for people with disabilities and mobility concerns, disability rights advocates have said repeatedly.

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

Block Club Chicago

<https://blockclubchicago.org>

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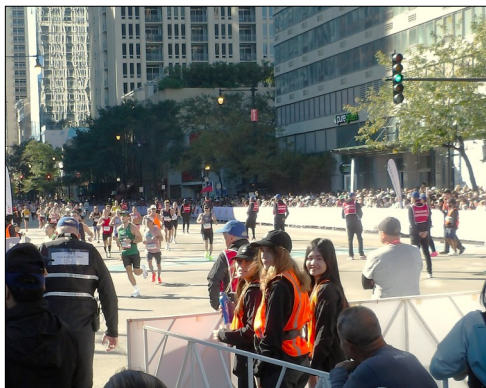
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The racers turn from Michigan towards Roosevelt Road.

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Race watchers move back and forth. In front of 1000M on Michigan Avenue.



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"NO KINGS" Rally on Jackson near Butler Field.



Japanese American say "Wrong in 1942, Wrong Now!"

Special meaning if you are a Chicagoan.



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Great home made poster.



Made of fabric squares sewn together.

South Loop Lands Another Sushi Bar As M Lounge And Roots Handmade Pizza Close

Sakana Sushi replaced My Place on Wabash Avenue last month, former Chicago Bear Israel Idonije is taking over M Lounge and only one Roots location remains open in West Town.

by Jamie Nesbitt GoldenOctober 3, 2025

SOUTH LOOP — Sakana Sushi is making its Wabash Avenue debut while M Lounge and Roots Pizza say goodbye to the South Loop.

Here's the latest in South Loop-area restaurant news:

Sakana Sushi

Japanese restaurant Sakana Sushi, 1307 S. Wabash Ave., opened in late September in the space that was formerly My Place. Diners can enjoy nigiri and sashimi a la carte (starting at \$4) and hibachi-style dishes (\$15 and up), along with desserts like banana tempura (\$6) and matcha cheesecake (\$6).

Owner Ed Guo owns several eateries in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, including an "all you can eat" sister restaurant near Rutgers University, according to Tap Into New Brunswick.

M Lounge

After 20 years of serving libations to thirsty Sloopers, M Lounge, 1520 S. Wabash Ave., is closing due to a change in ownership.

Reginald and MaryAnn Marsh announced on social media last month that they are handing over the reins to former Chicago Bear Israel Idonije's Pangea Restaurant Group, which includes the newly opened Buttercup and sports bar The Staley.

The Marshes were behind the Park Supper Club — now the Park Bar & Grill — and swank South Loop lounge Persona, which closed in 2022.

Roots Handmade Pizza

The Quad Cities-style pizzeria will close its two-story Printers Row location, 744 S. Dearborn St., on Sunday, ending a five-year run, according to a Sept. 15 social media post. The restaurant, known for imaginative pie offerings like tikka masala butter chicken and Korean fried chicken, boasted 400 seats, 23 televisions and a retractable \$600,000 glass roof.



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Sakana Sushi, a new Japanese restaurant, opened in the South Loop last month. Credit: Provided.

Roots opened in Printers Row five months into the COVID-19 pandemic, with staff providing free meals to the community, which — along with restructuring — helped the restaurant stay afloat, Fifty/50 restaurant group co-owner Greg Mohr previously told Block Club.

The West Town location is the last Roots standing; the local chain closed its Lincoln Square outpost in 2023 and the Old Town space in 2024.

Block Club Chicago

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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*

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

Available on Amazon

Students curate Columbia's 135-year-old story in new exhibit

By [Anna Bitz](#), Reporter

Erin McCarthy's "History of Chicago" class turned the college's archives into a visual celebration of its legacy with a new exhibit at the Hokin Gallery.

When junior music business major Caeli DiFranco came across a letter from Gwendolyn Brooks in Columbia's archives, she felt like she'd discovered a conversation across time. The poet's words, written in looping script, became part of a larger story DiFranco helped tell — one that now fills the walls of the Hokin Gallery in celebration of Columbia's 135 years of creativity.

This project opened DiFranco's eyes to the amount of history that the school has stored in the archives.

"You don't need to be searching the internet for everything. You can just go to our school resources and look for physical artifacts to use in your studies," she said.

The exhibit, "135 Years in Art and Objects," runs through Nov. 18 in the Hokin Gallery on the first floor of 623 S. Wabash Ave. and was developed from Columbia's archives by students in Associate Professor Erin McCarthy's "History of Chicago" course in Spring 2025.

Photographs, catalogs, posters, videos and other objects dating back to 1890 highlight the college's history, culture and creative legacy.

Drawing from Columbia's archives, McCarthy's students selected, researched and wrote about artifacts they felt best represented the college's story. This fall, Senior Exhibition Coordinator Mark Porter curated their work, transforming the gallery into a visual timeline of Columbia's past and present.

McCarthy chose this exhibition project for her students because the archives provide the missing gaps in history that are often overlooked in traditional written history.

"This is the story of their college, and this is everything that made it the college that it is today," she said.

Students worked in the archives with Heidi Marshall, head of archives and special collections, and Dominic Rossetti, the digital archives and preservation specialist, to handle the artifacts.

Marshall has been working in Columbia's archives since 2005. Prior to that, the college had no system for keeping artifacts. Throughout Marshall's career at the college, she has sorted through the archives and worked to collect as many as possible from outside sources. Rossetti has worked alongside her to digitize and preserve these collections.

Rossetti said that through the archives, it shows how Columbia has evolved and accommodated student needs.



Students, teachers and staff alike gather at the Hokin Gallery on the first floor of the 623 S. Wabash Ave. building on Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025. PHOTO [Amelia Baird](#)

"Columbia has always embraced the new technology and really listened to what students want to learn, and that is something you don't see at every school," Marshall added.

Madison Yager, a senior art history and art management major, worked as a curatorial assistant and archival assistant on the exhibit project, installing and displaying the pieces, assembling the framing and pulling together the archival section of student spaces for the exhibit.

"Having exhibitions like this gives a reminder to the student body and our legacy. Especially in recent times when the college is in a big flux state, it really stabilizes everything to see what we've come from and the amount of things Columbia has done," Yager said.

While spending time in the archives, Yager saw firsthand how students use the artifacts as resources for creative processes. She said that just by looking through the files, it inspires her to research and to be creative.

"There's so many collections and different projects that faculty have done with students, and just to witness it all is so empowering," Yager said.

The exhibit doesn't just display artifacts. It traces how ideas have evolved, looped back and re-emerged over time.

"You have to understand your roots in order to understand your path," Marshall said.

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8th Annual Pub Crawl

October 25, 2025

2 PM – 6 PM

5 Stops

Drink Specials

Awesome Door Prizes

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Pub Crawl Particulars

Come out on a Saturday afternoon, spending time with your neighbors and friends visiting Reggies Chicago, The Staley, Weather Mark Tavern, Vitology and ending at All Star Seafood & Sports. Your registration fee will provide you with discounted drink specials, limited appetizers at the 3rd and the last stop and the chance to win some awesome door prizes! Additionally, discounted food will be available most of the locations.

Costume contest for participants with CASH prizes for Best Costume & Best Couples Costumes, sponsored by All Star Seafood & Sports!

Crawl will start with check-in at **Reggies Chicago**, 2105 S. State St., starting at 1:45 pm. A complimentary bus will be available to shuttle those participants from the 1st to the 4th stop. Map and instructions for each location will be provided at check-in.

This event usually sells out it is suggested if you don't want to be disappointed, register soon!

Cost: Member: \$20, Non-Member: \$25

Register at: <https://www.southloopneighbors.org/events-1/8th-annual-sln-pub-crawl-and-halloween-costume-contest>

Space is limited so register now!

For more information contact Jim president@southloopneighbors.org

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Ages 21 and up

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 01

Show: 9pm

\$27.30

[Buddy Guy's Legends](#)

Online ticket cut off time is 4:00PM day of show.

Tickets are available at the door after 5:00PM

Acoustic: DONNA HERULA TRIO — 5:30-7:30PM**Opener: TBA – 9:00 – 10:00****Headliner: ALTERED FIVE BLUES BAND – 10:30 to Close**

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after 5:00PM

21+ After 8:00PM

SEATING POLICY:

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



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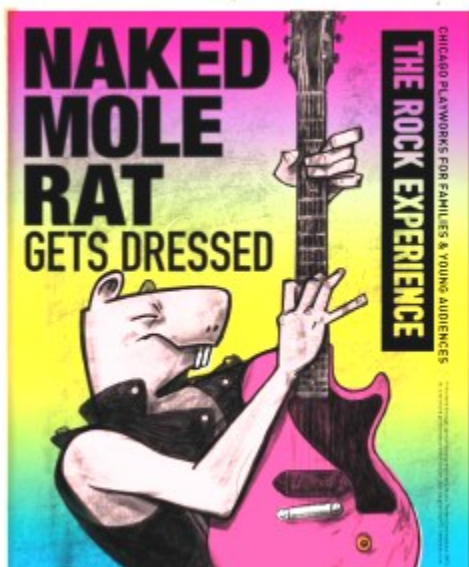
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directed by Ali-Reza Mirsajadi

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 In a lively underground colony where clothing is taboo and rock music reigns, naked mole rats live by one rule: stay bare. But when Wilbur dares to wear a hat, he sparks a fashion revolution. This high-energy musical celebrates individuality, acceptance, and the courage to challenge tradition.

**October 23, 2025 -
 November 08, 2025**
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[TICKETS](#)

DePaul University



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Written by Ellen McLaughlin
Directed by Stephanie Shaw

Event Details:
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 Getz Theatre Center | Studio 404
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For tickets, visit theatre.colum.edu

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Three daughters. Three plays. Three voices.

PERFORMANCE DATES

Wednesday, October 22nd - 7:30PM (Preview)
 Thursday, October 23rd - 7:30PM (Opening)
 Friday, October 24th - 7:30PM
 Saturday, October 25th - 2:00PM & 7:30pm
 Wednesday, October 29th - 7:30 PM
 Thursday, October 30th - 7:30 PM
 Friday, October 31st - 7:30 PM
 Saturday, November 1st - 2:00 PM

[TICKETS](#)

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Columbia College

Jesus Christ Superstar

**Heather Currie, director | Anna Wegener,
 music director | Shanna VanDerwerker,
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Jesus Christ Superstar is a high-voltage rock opera that reimagines the final days of Jesus through the eyes of Judas. With a thrilling score by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, it reveals the humanity of those who loved him, doubted him, and ultimately betrayed him. It invites us to see timeless figures as real, flawed, and searching—just like us.

FRI, OCT 24, 2025

TIME: 7:30PM-9:30PM

SAT, OCT 24, 2025

TIME: 7:30-9:30PM

SUN, OCT 26, 2025

TIME: 2:00-4:00PM

[TICKETS](#)

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Roosevelt University



Ald. Forum debrief: what did we learn?
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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.

The new Lucas Museum plan looks like my Apple router with a cocktail coaster on it

11/10/14

A [Chinese architect who seems like quite a lovely man](#) came up with the idea of a [white plastic mountain](#) for the George Lucas museum, the museum that Tiny Dancer wants to be not only on the Chicago lakefront, but also [the fourth museum of Chicago's famous Museum Campus](#). This is what you might call dumbing down to the max.

Lucas says his museum will contain 59 [Norman Rockwells](#) and his [Star Wars](#) memorabilia collection.

My daughter Molly and I saw the Star Wars collection several years ago when it was ensconced at the Museum of Science and Industry for several months. The day we went we were the only visitors in the large exhibit. It wasn't exactly overrun with people curious about Star Wars. I will admit, though, that we went on a weekday when crowds are smaller.

Truthfully, I wouldn't mind seeing 59 Norman Rockwells all in one place. But I would rather the one place be the Art Institute of Chicago. George, why not donate some dollars to the Art Institute, one of the greatest art museums in the world which is already up and running for 122 years--and ask that they devote a room to your Rockwell collection? Just like they did with [Arthur Rubloff's paperweight collection](#).

Rockwells and Star Wars do not under any circumstances deserve to be ensconced in a fourth Museum Campus institution. Nor do they merit lakefront land. Or any land donated by the city. Lucas is a billionaire, and if he wants a museum, he should buy his own land.

I don't think 59 Norman Rockwells and Star Wars stuff is akin to the collections contained at the Shedd Aquarium, the Adler Planetarium and the Field Museum of Natural History--all three of which contain some of the finest museum collections on earth. Collections that define human existence. And the history of the world. [R2-D2](#) they aren't.

Those three institutions also conduct cutting edge research on the campus and throughout the world. Compared to these three museums, the proposed Lucas Museum is positively ridiculous.

[Friends of the Parks](#) is ready to file suit the minute this thing becomes a done deal. They will waste their much needed resources. The City of Chicago will have to defend itself to the tune of big bucks spent on outside law firms--and will waste our city's much needed cash.



The new [Lucas Museum plan](#) looked very familiar to me when it was [unveiled a few days ago](#)--mainly because it looks just like my Apple router with a cocktail coaster on top. Not that I ever put a cocktail coaster on top of my Apple router.

If the Lucas Museum does come to be a part of the Museum Campus, it will become Chicago's responsibility--and eligible for all the support the other museums at the Campus receive. Which is totally unfair. Changes to the traffic infrastructure around Lucas' ego-building museum would also be our problem and our responsibility. The Lucas Museum is undeserving of any help from taxpayers. We don't need these headaches and these expenses, Chicago. [San Francisco put its foot down and said "No!" to Lucas](#) after four years of screwing around. Why is it Chicago's destiny to screw around with him now?

Please, George Lucas, go out and buy a nice big piece of land in Chicago. There's a lot around. Don't ask us for handouts. Don't bother us with lawsuits and architectural renderings that look like Apple routers with cocktail coasters on top. And don't push us into providing new traffic plans that inconvenience us. Leave us alone. Build your museum, run it--and let the people come to see your Rockwells and your Chewbaccas and your Jabbas. On your dime.

And may the force be with you....

Bonnie McGrath



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

Bonnie may be gone
... But her opinions remain
From November 10, 2014

Man gets 6 years for nearly killing gang rival at Loop CTA station

October 7, 2025 7:11 AM Tim Hecke CTA, Loop

A 24-year-old man has been sentenced to six years in prison after pleading guilty to trying to kill a rival gang member during a [random encounter](#) at a South Loop CTA station.

Vidal Herazo received the sentence from Judge Laura Ayala-Gonzalez after pleading guilty to attempted murder, according to court records. With credit for time served and good behavior, he is expected to be released after serving three years, on June 4, 2026.

Prosecutors said Herazo attacked a rival gang member after a brief, hostile exchange at the Roosevelt Red Line station late on June 16, 2023. According to court records, Herazo exited a train and flashed a Two-Six gang hand sign as he passed the victim on the platform. The victim, identified as a Latin King, responded with his own gang gesture, leading to an altercation.

The confrontation quickly escalated. Prosecutors said the victim pulled out a knife, then put it away before punching Herazo in the face. Herazo allegedly drew his own knife, chased the man down the length of the platform, and stabbed him three times in the head and once in the arm.

Herazo's knife punctured the victim's skull and severed an artery in his arm, causing massive blood loss and permanent brain damage, prosecutors said. The victim reportedly lost two liters of blood and suffered injuries that limited mobility on his left side and affected his ability to speak.

Chicago police officers responding to the scene found Herazo still attacking the man, according to prosecutors. He allegedly tossed the knife onto the train tracks and told officers the victim "should not have f***** with me."

Judge Susana Ortiz, who presided over the early stages of the case, described the altercation as "gang garbage."

"It leads to nowhere good for anyone that participates or is involved in it," Ortiz said.



<https://cwbchicago.com/>



Did you know the South Loop Neighborhood Watch - Police Beat 123 has a facebook page?

We do!...and we encourage you to use it!

The South Loop Neighborhood Watch – Police Beat 123 Facebook Page is a crime communication tool intended to enable the rapid sharing of crime alerts and crime prevention news specifically for Police Beat 123. This area is the section of the South Loop that is bordered by Ida B. Wells on the north, Roosevelt Road on the South, the Chicago River on the west and Michigan Avenue on the east.

Link to Facebook

group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1475398529519963/>

Please stay engaged! The safety and security of our neighborhood is everyone's business!

THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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 Nov 12, 2025

3pm Zoom

Beat 123

caps.001district@chicagopolice.org



Police Blotter



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

10/2/2025 11pm 2100 S State

AUTO THEFT on street Beat 131

9/29/2025 Midnight 1400 S State

BURGLARY-Forcible Entry Beat 131

9/27/2025 10:10pm 60 E 16th

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Knife in alley Beat 131

9/25/2025 12:05am 1200 S State

VANDALISM damage to car Non-res parking Beat 131

9/23/2025 10:32 PM 1200 S Wabash Ave

AGGRAVATED BATTERY Handgun at food store Beat 131

10/6/2025 10:57pm 1400 S Indiana

BURGLARY Unlawful entry apt Beat 132

10/6/2025 7pm 300 E 18th

AUTO THEFT on street Beat 132

10/4/2025 9:30pm 1500 S Indiana Av

AUTO THEFT on street Beat 132

10/2/2025 11:59pm 1200 S Michigan

AUTO THEFT Non Res Garage Beat 132

9/30/2025 2 :50pm 1400 S Special Olympics Dr

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Non Res Parking lot Beat 132

9/22/2025 4pm 1500 S Lake Shore Dr SB

SCOOTER OR BIKE THEFT on street Beat 132

10/5/2025 10:40pm 600 S Financial

AUTO THEFT Non Res parking Beat 123

10/4/2025 9:30pm 700 S Wells

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Handgun on street Beat 123

10/4/2025 8:23am 600 S Wabash

AUTO THEFT Beat 123

10/4/2024 2:30am 30 E Harrison

AUTO THEFT Non Res Garage Beat 123

10/3/2025 11pm 100 W 9th St

AUTO THEFT on street Beat 123

10/1/2025 7:29pm 800 S Wells

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Knife Apt Beat 123

10/1/2025 11:12am 100 W Roosevelt

ROBBERY No weapon Department Store Beat 123

10/1/2025 8:25am 30 E 9th

SEXUAL ABUSE on sidewalk Beat 123

9/29/2025 10PM 500 S Michigan

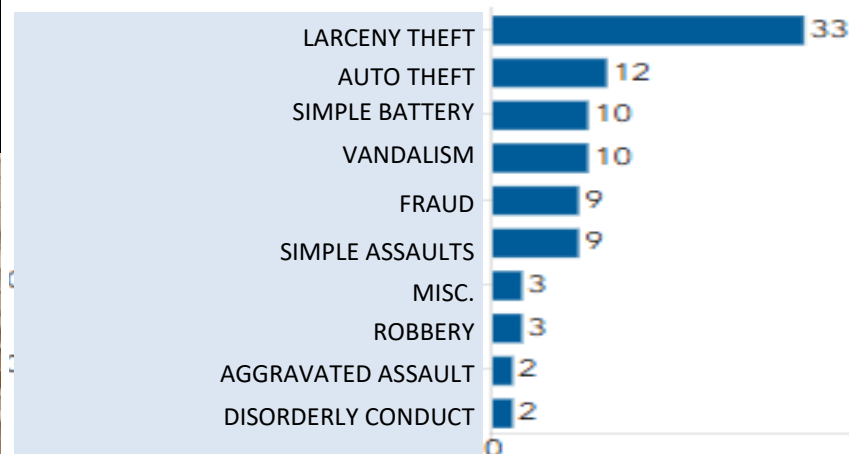
ROBBERY No weapon Grant Park Beat 123

9/29/2025 9PM 50 E Harrison

AUTO THEFT Non-Res garage Beat 123

Top 10 Crimes

PERIOD SEPT 20 TO OCT 6, 2025



Cops recover pot, guns after 2 men are shot in the South Loop

October 4, 2025 12:40 PM CWBChicago South Loop

Two men were critically wounded in a shooting in the South Loop late Friday, Chicago police said.

Officers on patrol reported hearing gunfire around 10:41 p.m. and soon found the victims in the 2400 block of South Federal Street. Police said the victims, ages 23 and 20, had been traveling together in a vehicle when an unidentified gunman began shooting. CPD did not say if the gunman was inside or outside of the vehicle.

The 20-year-old victim was struck twice in the abdomen and once in the arm, while the older man was shot in both legs and the thigh, according to CPD. Both men were taken to hospitals in critical condition.

Investigators found the victims' red Genesis nearby. Inside, officers recovered two firearms, bags containing marijuana, and two spent shell casings. Seven more casings were recovered in the middle of 24th Street, an officer at the scene said. Authorities have not released a description of the shooter, and no arrests were reported as of Saturday morning.



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