



# THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR [thedeardownexpress@gmail.com](mailto:thedeardownexpress@gmail.com)

Feb 15th, 2016

Vol. 4, No. 2

## South Loop Neighbors Annual Meeting

On Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, South Loop Neighbors held their Annual Meeting and election of the new board for the coming year. As is their tradition, **Dennis McClendon** provided an overview of the area's burgeoning developments and his perspective on some of the more controversial proposals. Of note were the developments north and south of River City, a spectacular proposal in size and scope. Also, a more recent announcement was for a new high rise apartment building 30+ stories at Polk and Financial, just north of the British School. Since these properties are penned-in between the Metra tracks on the east and the river on the west, transportation and access is an issue. The area is already feeling the effects of after school traffic from the British School and normal rush hour traffic.



Dennis McClendon reporting on recent development news.

As for two controversial projects proposed for Michigan Ave, the high rise proposal for the annex of the Essex Building showing a void in the lower floors is receiving some push back from the Landmarks Commission. Two blocks to the south is the proposed 86 story Helmet Jahn skyscraper has also hit a snag from Landmarks who are charged with keeping the historical Michigan Ave Wall at a proportionate scale with other buildings on the street. Instead of the 1002 Ft tall building proposed, rumor has it that it will need to be trimmed to at least 832 ft. Still, it would extend high above surrounding properties. The Mayor and the Plan Commission want development. The Alderman wants development. However, in May of 2004, the South Loop community pressured the Plan Commission to develop a Plan for the South Loop. The resulting plan indicated a desired height of 400 ft for new buildings. South Loop Neighbors would like them to use this 400 ft. height as a measuring stick for proposed developments.

## In this Issue



Beth Finke talks of "love and relationships" just in time for Valentine's Day. Page 8



Bonnie McGrath discusses Rham, George and Melody and the proposed Lucas Museum. Page 4



Mondays with Mike: Mike introduces us to Steve Ferkau who is remarkable in several ways. Page 5



Welcome to Sunny Florida. Since I spend February in the sunshine state, I will share photos and a few thoughts. Al Hippensteel

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# COMING TO THE JAZZ SHOWCASE

- Mon, Feb 15, 8 & 10pm ..... Vocalist/ Trumpeter Sam Trump
- Tues, Feb 16, 8 & 10pm ..... WDCB FREE Sax Rajiv Halim Quartet
- Weds. Feb 17, 8 & 10pm..... The Maxwell Ensemble
- Thurs-Sun, Feb 18-21, 8 & 10pm ..... Pianist Chuchito Valdes Trio
- Sun, 4 , 8 & 10pm
- Mon, Feb 22, 8 & 10pm ..... Bob Lark and his Alumni Big Band
- Tues, Feb 23, 8 & 10pm..... The Sonic Poets with Dave Grilly,
- Weds, Feb 24, 8 & 10pm.....
- Thurs-Sun, Feb 25-28, 8 & 10pm ..... Robert Irving III Generations
- Sun, 4 & 8pm
- Mon, Feb 29, 8 & 10pm ..... Vocalist Shara Maxwell Quartet
- Tues, Mar 1, 8 & 10pm ..... Trumpeter Bobby Lewis Quintet Celebrates his 80th Birthday w/ Pat Mallinger, Stewart Miller, Jim Ryan & Jeff Stitely
- Weds, Mar 2, 8 & 10pm ..... Trumpeter Bobby Lewis Quintet Celebrates his 80th Birthday w/ Pat Mallinger, Stewart Miller, Jim Ryan & Jeff Stitely
- Thurs-Sun, Mar 3-6, 8 & 10pm ..... Trumpeter Bobby Lewis Quintet Celebrates his 80th Birthday w/ Pat Mallinger, Stewart Miller, Jim Ryan & Jeff Stitely
- Sun, 4, 8, & 10pm



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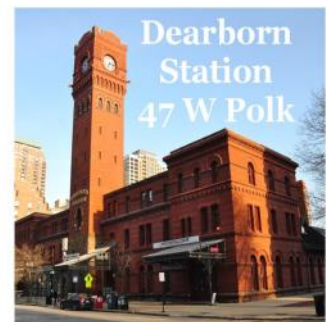
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# South Loop Neighbors

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](http://www.southloopneighbors.org)**

## Board of Directors:

- Susan Ohde, President
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- Dorothy Miaso, Treasurer
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- Denise Aruldoss, Director
- Brian Bleers, Director
- Robert Degnan, Director
- Christine Hunt, Director, Membership
- James Michaels, Director
- Dennis McClendon, Director, Development & Planning

## 2016 - Message from the President

The South Loop Neighbors held their planning meeting for 2016. We have a great board and I am very excited about the year to come. **Later this month, look forward to the announcement of a brewery tour and our annual members dinner which we hope to have on the afternoon of Sunday, March 13.** In April, **Clean and Green is Saturday 4/23 from 9 to 12** (to volunteer, contact [parkpals@southloopneighbors.org](mailto:parkpals@southloopneighbors.org)) and we hope to keep our **Jazz Showcase** event annual in the last week of April.



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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.

## How come Rahm has to talk the future of the Lucas Museum over with George and Mellody and not us?

Now that the Friends of the Parks lawsuit against building the Lucas Museum where Lucas says it has to be--on park/lakefront land--has been [deemed to have merit by a federal judge](#) and can proceed, what is our broken mayor going to do about it?

Stand his ground and proceed with defending the suit? Cave in and kill, or at least move, the museum? Or, maybe, just maybe, talk it over with Chicago residents and community leaders to see what we think of the whole idea of stealing land and getting bogged down in a lawsuit to defend the theft--for a half-conceived museum that in the end may be an albatross around our neck? Because it could flop for lack of attendance, a lack of exhibits and a lack of money. And then what?

Nope, Rahm's not going to do any of that. Instead, he says he's going to talk things over with his pals [George](#) and [Mellody](#) to see what's up with them. What do they want to do? Not what do Chicagoans want to do, he says in a video [here](#), but what do George and Mellody want to do?

That's his reaction? Sit down with two of the richest riches in town to see where they stand on stealing public land for themselves, and getting involved in a very expensive protracted legal battle? What about us, Tiny Tears? How about asking us what we think about it?

What's been the problem with this idea all along. George Lucas, the Great Star (wars) gets his [Lucas Museum idea dissed by San Francisco](#), his hometown, and comes to his new wife's hometown and tells Rahm (NOT US) what he's going to do on our free land, no questions asked, no compromises offered. And Rahm says OK.

Not once did Lucas address us residents. Not once did he humble himself. Thank us. Consider us. Not once.

Rahm just said, "Sure, Georgie, anything you say."

So for [59 Norman Rockwells](#) (how about a donating them to the [Art Institute](#), which can designate The Lucas Rockwell Room?) and a [Star Wars collection](#) (which has already been here years ago at the Museum of Science and Industry--and the day my daughter and I went no one was there but us), [a futuristic museum building](#) and a paltry endowment, he wants to be part of [our Museum Campus](#). He wants to be part of three other museums that are conducting world-renowned research and which have been attracting crowds for decades and decades with some of the most respected collections in the world.

If not for Friends of the Parks (God bless them), lakefront ground would be broken on this egotistical lame brain idea in a few

weeks. Instead, the brakes are on--at least until the conclusion of the lawsuit.

So, George and Mellody and Rahmbo, how about this? Consider this when you're talking together. Mr. Lucas wants a Lucas museum in Chicago? Go to an area with a lot of land that needs a good perk, a good draw. And get you some of that. Bronzeville? Englewood? Even [the land at Clark and Roosevelt](#) that is so unused it's never had any infrastructure whatsoever. That's where your legacy should be. Helping our city. Not stealing from it. Or take over the [Michael Reese land that is costing us a fortune every day](#), ever since we bought it for the 2016 Olympics that will not be. Or, as Friends of the Parks suggests, [take over some very underused land on the west side of Lake Shore Drive](#) in the South Loop. Do us a favor. And we'll do you a favor by not filing suits or criticizing you.

Build yourself a museum. Completely on your dime. Pick good people to run it. And make sure you have plenty of parking and infrastructure available. And a traffic plan--if your dream comes true. And buy plenty of advertising. And make sure that your endowment covers *whatever* comes the museum's way. That's what you should do, George. And I hope Mellody and Rahm agree.

That's the way to go, George. And may the force be with you.

And keep this in mind. This may be the new Chicago Way --now that [our mayor has lost his mojo](#). Not only will lawsuits have to be won and lost on their merits. So will ideas. All of them. Even yours.



Bonnie McGrath



Visit my blog: <http://www.chicagonow.com/>

# OPINION

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## Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#) | January 30, 2016



### [You can't stop Breathin' Steven](#)

*Hi folks, it's Mike--introducing a guest blog of sorts. It's actually a blog converted from an email message from our remarkable friend Steve Ferkau. Steve is, well, one of a kind. In the best possible way. 2016 marks the 14th year in a row Steve will climb to the top of the John Hancock Center (94 floors, 1,632 steps). No small feat for a guy once on the verge of death from cystic fibrosis, who is now a double lung and kidney transplant survivor!*

*He had to take an unwelcome break from his workout routine last week when he caught a viral infection. It's the kind of virus that a non-transplant person wouldn't have to worry about--but Steve does. He was prescribed prednisone. I've taken prednisone for really bad sinus infections in the past. And I'm not ashamed to say--I kinda liked it. Lotsa energy, sort of felt invincible. One time when I picked up a prednisone prescription, I noticed that among the many side effects listed on the label was this: False sense of well-being. Bring it on!*

*When I learned Steve was on prednisone, I emailed him to ask how he was doing, and to compare notes about how it affects him. And this is what he wrote back. He did not disappoint. Apart from being funny, it provides a little window on what transplant survivors have to endure. Hope you enjoy.*

#### False Sense of Well Being

by Steve Ferkau

Agreed on the false sense of well being!!! It's a very dirty drug - and actually rather awesome for transplant and immune suppression / immune confusion. But it can make people angry, depressed, grow hair, lose hair, hyper, jittery, F\*\*KING TALKATIVE, high blood sugar / diabetic, cataracts, osteoporosis, the list goes on.... It's a corticosteroid, not an anabolic steroid -- your body actually naturally produces it to battle inflammation. Our bodies, even when they're failing miserably, are totally amazing biological machines.

Laura LOVED that I was cooking, cleaning, cleaning more -- she could get used to that. **Not** the constant chatter though - a dose of shut-the-f\*\*k-up would sound delightful to her if someone could slip that into my drink.

At work I was yabbling away at the building concierge working out some fundraising thang -- and explaining to her how the high doses of prednisone impact me -- as she could readily observe by my lips moving in a blur. As we were standing in front of the barrista I ordered 4 shots of espresso. You would have LOVED the look on her face. Like, ARE YOU F\*\*KING KIDDING ME??? And pleading with her eyes, "Can that possibly be the right thing to do at this moment???"

Well... I had the last elevated dose this morning -- so the fun stops now. Or, at least the accelerated fun.

I see the doc tomorrow regarding RSV status... I may not be out of the woods -- it can impact lung transplants dangerously and if the \$500-for-ten-days-drug they gave me ain't cutting it, they'll wanna get more aggressive. Viruses suck -- oral antivirals are a bit of a joke -- VERY expensive and quite ineffective... But even IV and other antivirals are a crap shoot at best. Again -- the most effective thing is your body rising to the occasion. But then you just hope immunity thangs don't suddenly go the route of, "and you may ask yourself, this is not my beautiful wife, and this is not my beautiful house, and these are not my beautiful lungs, and this is not my beautiful kidney...".

I've been through seemingly WAY more serious things than this -- but in reality, they're not. It's these seemingly little things that scare me.

Hope you're doing great!!! I've got an amazing team behind me.

*This year's hustle is just (two) weeks away: Sunday, February 28. You can read more about Steve and [donate to his Climbing for Kari team](#) on his web site. Please read his story, and the story of his donors--it's remarkable.*



Breathin' Steven always makes it to the top. [And raises money for a very good cause.](#)

For a daily update on the budget impasse go to REBOOT ILLINOIS. For an easy way to access your representatives on a variety of issues, go to REBOOTILLINOIS.



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## Book Review: Between the World and Me by Lorraine Schmall

In this searing, 152-page prose poem, Atlantic writer Ta-Nehisi Coates writes five letters to his teenage son, Samori, explaining what it means to be black in America. But this is a book written for every father's child. And it is not just about race; it is about America, an exceptionalist country "that loudly proclaims its love of freedom and inscribes this love in its essential texts," although twelve of our presidents held and sold slaves and twelve generations of blacks were in bondage. Black History month made young Coates cringe: "why were only *our* heroes nonviolent?"

He writes of his childhood fear, when parents beat their young so that the police would not, when classmates, "who'd transmuted their fears into rage," carried guns that could be randomly turned on each other, and when most people placed security above justice, allowing our constabulary to "dislodge brains, block airways, rip muscle, extract organs, break teeth." In segregated East Baltimore, he learned on TV that "there were other worlds where children did not regularly fear for their lives."

Samori should not have that fear, raised in the polyglot of New York City by college-educated parents. But today's news stories, of Laquan McDonald, and Quintonio LaGrier,

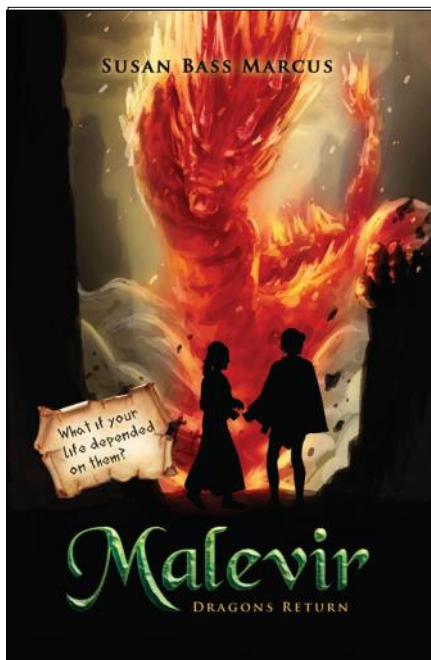
and Flint, Michigan---some of them newer than Coates' book---might scare him still. Coates describes the death of a Howard grad, a friend, the son of a prominent doctor, killed by an undercover officer who mistook him for a drug dealer: "he was murdered by his country and all the fears that have marked it from its birth." The Illinois Better Government Association recently reported that the sexually-abused, poorly-educated, mentally-ill victims of recent police killings---whether illegal or justifiable---were systematically failed by the myriad of public programs designed to help them. Coates acknowledges the tragedy of criminal violence among blacks, but when places like Chicago, his wife's hometown, focus exclusively on the culpability of black gangbangers, it "vanishes the men who engineered the restrictive covenants...planned the projects...and sold red-ink by the barrel."

His message is audacious but ultimately hopeful. "The fact of history is that black people have not---probably no people ever have---liberated themselves strictly through their own struggle." When Coates' readers turn "away from the brightly ordered version" of US history towards "something murkier and unknown," we might overcome.



Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park



Dragons have long been absent from their ancestral home in the Veiled Valley. Through spells and deceptions, a mysterious shape-shifter attacked them and now threatens the Valley's hard-won tranquility. With the dragons' strengths and magic apparently gone forever, the lives of the Valley's humans and otherworldly creatures hang in the balance. Will two young dragon-riders help heal the rift between human and dragon?

*Malevir: Dragons Return* is the first of Susan

Bass Marcus' epic fantasy series, a fresh take on classic themes of family, courage, and sacrifice that recalls the thrills fans find in the work of Anne McCaffrey or J.R.R. Tolkien.

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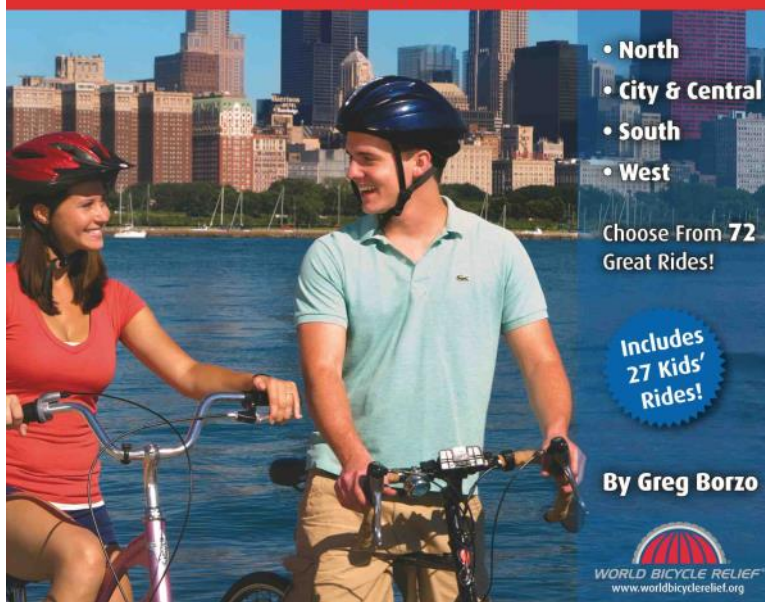
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Two proficient, contemporary and most well respected American writers with the same first name have recently published worthy books. Ann Beattie has a collection of connecting short stories titled "The State We're In, Maine Stories." Anne (with the "e"!)" Tyler's most recent Baltimore based novel is "A Spool of Blue Thread." "The State We're In" begins with Jocelyn, a student pondering an assignment in a summer high school program. We learn that she is staying with her aunt and uncle because her mother is recuperating from surgery. Details about others' confusing and outlandish lives are revealed in a succession of short chapters. Location is important in all situations. Beaches, barns, motels, auctions and abandoned houses all are artfully described and necessary to the main Maine story of the family.

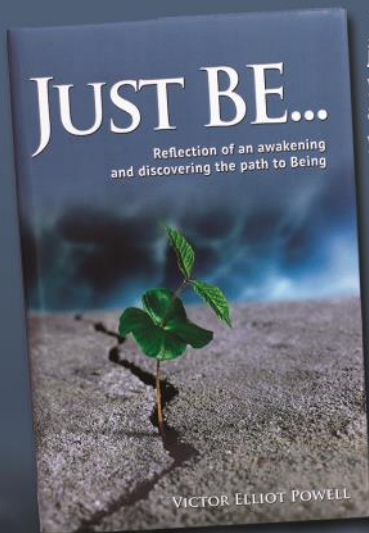
Tyler's twentieth novel is another family fable, consisting of four generations of the Whitshank clan. Histories are revealed in staged situations and in descriptive dialogue. We find characters to identify with and admire, as well as confusing and repelling individuals, We ponder Tyler's amazing ability to keep us entertained and educated in 358 pages. We look forward to her twenty-first and to Beattie's twentieth publication. Maybe there is something in the first name of Ann or Anne to allow such fortitude and wisdom!

## Mary Lou Wade

English instructor at a Columbia College Chicago



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## Safe & Sound Blog

by Beth Finke

<http://Bethfinke.wordsmith.com>



### [It doesn't mean there's any less love in it](#)

Posted Feb 11th, 2016

I have a part-time job moderating a blog for Easter Seals National Headquarters, and in honor of Valentine's Day, Easter Seals HQ is devoting the month of February to stories about "love and relationships." My mission? Recruit people with disabilities (or those who love or have a relationship with someone who has a disability) to write guest posts on the subject.

I started by contacting a writer in one of my memoir classes. She speaks often of her fondness for a brother-in-law who'd been born with developmental disabilities back in the 1940s. Gerald died in December, and when I contacted this writer to see if she had any interest in writing about him for Easter Seals, she emailed back and wasn't ready just yet. "Would it be okay to pass the opportunity on to my daughter Katie?"

Katie Irely started her [Tribute to my Uncle Gerald post](#) explaining that her Uncle Gerald was a lifelong Trekkie. "I didn't know my uncle when he was a child, but I imagine he may have found some comfort in this TV community where it was okay to be different," she wrote. "In fact, it was celebrated."

Katie was a teenager in 1995, when "Star Trek: Voyager" introduced Captain Kathryn Janeway, its first female commanding officer. "Whenever we were together, Uncle Gerald never failed to remind me that the Captain of the Voyager and I had the same name, Kathryn, that she was the first female Starfleet commander, and that maybe I could be a commander, too," she said. "This I believe was my uncle's way of encouraging me to pursue my dreams, and letting me know how proud he was to be with me on my journey.



Elena, the bulldozer.

Tomorrow the Easter Seals national blog will run a piece by Bernhard Walke, whose five-year-old daughter has cerebral palsy (you might remember the post we published here on the *Safe & Sound* blog when [Elena dressed as a bulldozer](#) for Halloween).

Bernhard is an administrator at a high school situated in a Chicago neighborhood that has a long history of gang activity, marginalization, poverty, and other social problems. His wife Rosa is a teacher there, too, and his guest post is about the kinship their high school students have formed with their daughter.

I encourage you to [visit the Easter Seals blog tomorrow](#) to read Bernhard's thoughtful post in its entirety, and I'll leave you here with a sneak preview I know will leave you wanting for more:

*As I pulled into my parking spot, assembled Elena's wheelchair, and planted her in it, I heard the 3:30 dismissal bell chime. I grunted and bemoaned that I would have to navigate my way through hundreds of high school students at dismissal in order to pick up my wife.*

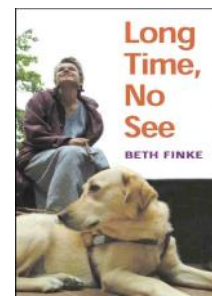
*As I began to make my way through the halls, though, one of our senior boys who is typically very quiet and has a meek personality noticed me pushing my five-year-old through the crowded halls. He sprung to action, clearing a path like a border collie through the halls. He admonished other students, "Hey! Get off your phone and pay attention! Mr. Walke is trying to get through with his daughter." "Javier! Can you get the door and hold it open for Mr. Walke and his daughter?" "Mrs. Walke! Mr. Walke and your daughter are both here."*

*I thanked him for his unsolicited help and we were on our way to Elena's appointment.*

*As we were driving back home, I marveled at the selfless love and care that this student demonstrated toward a young five-year old that he had just met. I also remembered that this student had lost his mother at a young age. It was just him and his father at home. I like to think that we both realized that life doesn't often go as planned, but it doesn't mean that there is any less love in it.*

Another guest post on the Easter Seals blog was written by Bryan MacMurray, a friend I met at the University of Illinois. Bryan is blind, and he's married to a woman who uses a wheelchair. Lots to say about all that, so Bryan's essay was split into two. One part is [about Bryan and Joanna's lives now](#), after retiring to Arizona. The other part is called [Every love story is beautiful, but ours is my favorite](#), and it explains how the two of them met in an elevator. "I realized right away this sweet-sounding girl with the slight accent was in a manual wheelchair," he wrote. "That was fine by me -- I am just a couple of inches over five feet tall, and I tended to like girls who didn't have a big height advantage."

Beth Finke's books: "Safe and Sound" and "Long Time No See" can be purchased at Sandmeyer's Book Store.





## WORKSHOP: L.I.F.T. - A 101 on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter - Public Narrative

Need a lift on social media? Let us pull you in the right direction for LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, Feb 24. We'll be covering the basics and how to begin success on each platform. After taking L.I.F.T., advance in the 3-part Social Media Bootcamp training - an intermediate class that will cover management of the platforms and your content, messaging, strategy and analytics.

<http://publicnarrative.org>



### SOUNDS OF THE SOUTH LOOP

In honor of Black History Month, Sounds of the South Loop presents the Prairie State Jazz Ensemble in concert on Sunday, February 21 at 2:00 p.m. The Ensemble will present creative improvisations on "Precious Lord Take My Hand", "This Little Light of Mine" and "This Train" among other spiritual favorites. Admission is free. For more information, please see the church website at: [www.2ndpresbyterian.org](http://www.2ndpresbyterian.org)



Robert is Here



"Robert is Here" is a produce stand located just outside the main entrance of Everglades National Park. The local produce includes many exotic varieties which can be enjoyed in near tropical south Florida. The best, in my opinion, are the ice cream shakes in about 20 fruit flavors. My favorite is Key Lime. The shake is too thick for a straw. I can't wait to go back.



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## Ald. Will Burns Resigns, Leaves 4th Ward Seat Vacant, Will Go To Airbnb

By [Sam Cholke](#) | February 1, 2016  
7:56am | Updated on February 1, 2016 8:17am

@SamCholke

HYDE PARK — After five years serving in the City Council, Ald Will Burns (4th) is resigning to join Airbnb, the website that lets homeowners temporarily rent out their homes.

The 42-year-old alderman who replaced Toni Preckwinkle when she became Cook County Board president in 2011 is said to be stepping down this week, leaving Mayor Rahm Emanuel a vacant spot to fill.

On Monday, Airbnb confirmed Burns has been hired as a senior advisor and director of Midwest policy.

"We are thrilled to have Will Burns joining our growing team at Airbnb," said Chris Lehane, global head of policy and public affairs. "Alderman Burns will be a difference maker for those everyday people who depend on home sharing to help make ends meet — and we are very fortunate to have him leading our efforts in the rapidly growing Midwest, as well as benefiting from his counsel as a senior member of our policy team."

On Monday morning, Mayor Emanuel said he's in the process of finding Burns' replacement.



"I want to congratulate Will Burns on this new chapter in his life, but we will certainly miss him as a City Council member," Emanuel said in a statement. "He has spent the last five years advocating for better public schools, attracting new business and improving economy in the 4th Ward."

Burns was not available for comment.

Once Burns steps down, Emanuel will have 60 days to appoint a replacement.

Emanuel said there will be an online application process and a commission of 4th Ward community members led by Michelle Harris, chairman of the Committee on Rules, Committees and Ethics, will review the applications.

He was re-elected alderman in February 2015.

From 2009 to 2011, Burns served as state representative for the 26th District.

<http://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/>



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We've heard about the create-your-own-pizza trend, but haven't ever tried one. [We read this on wikipedia about the franchise:](#)

Pizza Studio is a Los Angeles-based pizza franchise founded in 2013 by entrepreneur and former venture capitalist, Samit Varma. The fast-casual concept allows diners to create their own pizzas using four types of dough and a number of vegetables, meats, and cheeses that employees help put together in front of the customer. The pizzas are cooked in about 3 minutes in a self-ventilating conveyor oven.

So think Chipotle, but for Pizza.

We know [Lebron James is an investor for Blaze Pizza](#) (a similar type of concept). Has anyone tried this franchise? [Looks like Yelpers like it!](#)

Seems like a good addition to the Sloop.

<http://www.sloopin.com/>

## Day of the Iguana



Let me be the first to welcome you to the Florida Keys. Three year's ago there were maybe four of these guys hanging around the marina where we stay on Islamorada. Then last year, there were maybe 8 to 10. This year, they're in the bushes, hanging out in trees and sunning themselves by the marina. Who knows how many there are. Good News! They're vegetarians.

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## Alderman Raymond Lopez Endorses Genita Robinson for State Representative

Chicago – Genita Robinson, an attorney and candidate for State Representative in the 6th District, received the endorsement of Raymond Lopez, Alderman of Chicago's 15th Ward. Alderman Lopez, whose ward covers the Back of the Yards and West Englewood, announced his support for Ms. Robinson citing her commitment and qualifications in the job.



Genita Robinson

"I am proud to support Genita Robinson as our next state representative," Lopez said. "Her experience and record of accomplishments makes her the most qualified person to fight for our community in Springfield. We need leaders like Genita who will stand up to Governor Rauner's radical agenda and will work hard to make our communities great again."

Lopez, who also serves as the 15th Ward's Democratic Committeeman, has a large share of voters in the district. His endorsement is expected to provide a large boost to the Robinson campaign in its effort to reach out to Back of the Yards and West Englewood voters.

"Alderman Lopez is a champion for working class families at both City Hall and in the 15th Ward," Robinson said. "I am proud to have earned his support and look forward to having his help in reaching out and talking to voters about the most important issues facing our city and our state."

Lopez also took the opportunity to criticize Robinson's opponent in the race for missing a key vote to maintain funding for abandoned properties, which can turn into hotspots for crime.

"Rep. Esther Golar's legacy was forged in part by her willingness to show up to vote for legislation that was important to the community despite being terminally ill," said Lopez. "For her replacement to skip a critical vote that would have provided relief to homeowners living next to unsecured properties, it is both unbelievable and unacceptable. Our community deserves better."

Neighborhoods throughout the 6th District have some of the highest property vacancies in the city. In some areas of Englewood and Back of the Yards, as many as one in six houses were vacant according to a 2013 study.

The 6th House District includes Englewood, West Englewood, Back of the Yards, Marquette Park, Bridgeport, Canaryville, New City, Chicago Lawn, the South Loop and River North.

## Robinson Blasts Rauner's CPS Takeover Bill

Chicago (Jan. 21, 2016) – One candidate for State Representative in Chicago wasted no time Wednesday blasting Governor Rauner for his proposal, pushed by Republican legislative leaders Jim Durkin and Christine Radogno, for the State to take over the finances of Chicago Public Schools (CPS).

"I strongly oppose Governor Rauner's extreme proposal to take over CPS. The Governor knows this proposal will do nothing to solve the unfairness that plagues Chicago's most cash-strapped schools" Genita Robinson said. "If he is serious about helping Chicago children, he should return to the negotiating table and pass a budget in which the state fulfills its constitutional obligation to be the primary source of funding for public education. Instead, the Governor is using Chicago's teachers and students as political pawns to advance his extremist anti-union agenda."

CPS is currently facing a \$500 million shortfall. Previously, Governor Rauner has said that he will not provide any financial help for CPS unless Mayor Rahm Emanuel agrees to help him pass his anti-union agenda, including ending the right of labor unions to collectively bargain. Robinson has called the Governor's approach "irresponsible and wrong."

Robinson is one of 4 candidates vying to succeed Rep. Esther Golar, who passed away in September after a long battle with cancer. An attorney, education activist and nonprofit leader who worked to provide mentorships to at-risk youth, Robinson currently leads the pack in fundraising with a 3-1 cash-on-hand advantage over her nearest competitor.



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## Sunday Cinema: Camera Obscura

Sunday, February 21, 2016 - 2:00 pm

**4 Weeks in February | 4 Films About Jewish Journeys**

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A lyrical, inventive feature film from award-winning director María Victoria Menis, *Camera Obscura* focuses on Gertrudis, the shy ugly duckling in a community of Jews in Buenos Aires Province at the end of the 19th century. She fashions herself almost invisible, hiding her face in



photographs. After she is married off to a wealthy Jewish rancher, she finds solace in the beauty of everyday life. One day her husband invites a gentle, nomadic French photographer to take a family portrait. His surrealist photographs and uncompromising vision allow Gertrudis to see herself for the first time.

Based on a story by Argentinian writer Angélica Gorodischer published in *The House of Mermory: Stories by Jewish Women Writers of Latin America*, edited by Marjorie Agosin. *Camera Obscura* is in Spanish and Yiddish with English subtitles

## Sunday Cinema: How to Re-Establish a Vodka Empire

Sunday, February 28, 2016 - 2:00 pm

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When British filmmaker Daniel Edelstyn travels to Ukraine in search of his roots, he discovers that the vodka distillery opened by his great-grandfather in 1904 is still in operation. He decides — despite his utter lack of business experience — to become a liquor entrepreneur and import the vodka to the UK. This funny documentary charms with *vérité* cinematography and inventive animated sequences created by Edelstyn's wife, artist Hilary Powell.



## The Roseate Spoonbill



Sometimes, you can happen upon one of Florida's most colorful birds in unanticipated settings. We found many wading birds in an abandoned golf course on Fort Myers Beach



**HOLY TRINITY IN THE LOOP BRINGS TRADITIONAL LITURGY, PROGRESSIVE THINKING TO SOUTH LOOP.**

Meets need of rapidly growing neighborhood.

Holy Trinity in the Loop, an extension of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wrigleyville, began weekly Saturday evening services in February, 2014. **Holy Trinity in the Loop meets Saturdays at 5 pm at Grace Place in the South Loop and is member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).**

All are welcome at Holy Trinity in the Loop. At every service, Pastor Craig states, "Whoever you are, whatever the color of your skin, whoever you love or marry, or whatever you think of organized religion, you are welcome here."

The new worshiping community offers wine receptions following most services and anticipates volunteering in the South Loop neighborhood in the future.

# Jones College Prep Will Keep All Teachers Despite \$321K Cut, Principal Says

By [David Matthews](#) | February 10, 2016 6:51am

[@DavidLMatthews](#)

DNAinfo/David Matthews

DOWNTOWN — Jones College Prep will keep all its staff despite being ordered to slash more than \$321,000 from its budget this week, the principal of the Downtown school said Tuesday.

P. Joseph Powers told his local school council Tuesday that the selective-enrollment high school at 700 S. State St. can absorb the mid-year budget cut without shedding staff by tapping into about \$400,000 it has saved in recent years.

The announcement came the same day Chicago Public Schools officials outlined \$120 million in new school cuts they ordered in response to stalled labor negotiations and millions in state funding the school system budgeted for last summer but never received.

"We were on hold [spending] because we knew this sort of thing was coming," Powers said.

Powers said he has until Tuesday to cut \$321,209 from his school budget. To do so, he plans to use some of the nearly \$340,000 in state funding Jones has saved in recent years, and another \$62,000 the school previously set aside for furniture and school equipment.

He said he may ask Friends of Jones, a school booster club with \$145,000 in its coffers, to help address the mid-year budget cut.

This week's CPS cuts represent a 3.3 percent budget reduction for Jones, [which actually received \\$1.45 million in more funding from the school system last summer](#) due to surging enrollment. But that boost, bolstered by the opening of a new Jones building in 2013, stands to adversely affect Jones and other city schools with high enrollment this week. Lane Tech College Prep, which has more than 4,000 students, stands to lose the most money of any CPS school at \$542,951, or 2.8 percent of its budget, compared to an average of 1.4 percent cuts this week across CPS.

CPS is operating at a [\\$1.1 billion deficit](#) and its budget this year included a \$480 million hole that CPS chief Forrest Claypool hoped could be plugged through state funding by the new year. But the money never came, and with few signs it will, Claypool said the district had to take drastic action. He has denied the new cuts this week are an attempt to pressure the [Chicago Teachers Union as they negotiate a new contract](#).

Next Edition,

Thursday, March 10th, 2016



"These painful reductions are not the steps that we want to take, but they are the steps we must take as our cash position becomes tighter every day — especially as the District relies on short-term financing to pay its bills," Claypool said in a statement Tuesday. "We are doing everything in our power to sustain the gains our students are making in their classrooms."

More school cuts Downtown:

- South Loop Elementary, 1212 S. Plymouth Court: \$128,146 (3.1 percent)
- National Teachers Academy, 55 W. Cermak Road: \$59,516 (1.7 percent)

<http://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/>

## COVER STORY

### [Save The Sun-Times: How I'd Keep Chicago A Two-Newspaper Town](#)

One of the last conversations I had with the beloved Chicago writer Andrew Patner took place after running into him as I was coming out of an event. I mentioned to him that I was thinking about writing a story about how, hypothetically, I would save the Sun-Times, and he strongly encouraged me to write it. The newspaper was something dear to his heart.

I decided that it was some kind of karmic intervention that the morning after the one-year anniversary of Andrew's unexpected death brought a surprise announcement—that Michael Ferro, the principal owner of the Sun-Times since 2011, and the man credited with turning Jenny McCarthy into a columnist, was buying a substantial stake in Tribune Publishing and taking on the role of non-executive chairman. Simultaneously, he was stepping out of his controlling role at the Sun-Times parent company, the cringingly named Wrapports. A seismic shift roiled the quicksand of local media.

(Brian Hiegelke) For the rest of the story:

[http://www.newcity.com/2016/02/10/save-the-sun-times-how-id-keep-chicago-a-two-newspaper-town/?utm\\_source=Newcity+Chiletter&utm\\_campaign=d5782ccf7e&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_db7461bd4f-d5782ccf7e-306512713](http://www.newcity.com/2016/02/10/save-the-sun-times-how-id-keep-chicago-a-two-newspaper-town/?utm_source=Newcity+Chiletter&utm_campaign=d5782ccf7e&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_db7461bd4f-d5782ccf7e-306512713)



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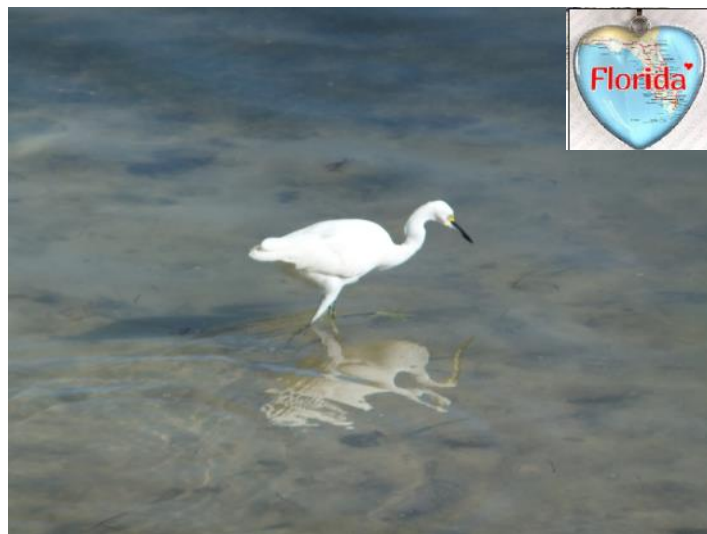
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A white Egret wading in shallow water near Annie's Beach on Islamorada, Florida Keys.

**What's not to like?** Well . . . The traffic for one thing, especially in the crowded beach towns and an appalling number of strip shopping malls. Gridlock affects wonderful destinations like Key West because of the combination of cars and cruise ship dwellers. Lake Okeechobee is near flood level and the solutions, so as not to flood the sugar cane fields, is to divert water to rivers that lead out into the gulf. The ocean now has a muddy brown look. And this year, the red tide is back. And Florida, a state of great diversity, lacks diversity in the resort areas. People of color clean your rooms and serve your food.

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Fri Jan 22, 2016

## Developer Wants to De-convert River City into Apartments



What is up with all the desire for apartments (via Crains):

A Chicago developer wants to buy all 448 condominiums in the eccentric South Loop complex called River City and convert them back to apartments, an unusual type of deal that is catching on in Chicago.

Marc Realty Capital has offered to buy the entire residential portion of the mixed-use complex at 800 S. Wells St., according to a Jan. 19 letter sent to condo owners on behalf of the buildings' homeowners association. Marc is offering \$225 per square foot for the condos; the association will hold an owners meeting Jan. 26 to discuss the offer, the letter said.

If approved, the sale would reverse an early-2000s conversion to condos at the pair of Bertrand Goldberg-designed buildings, which opened as apartments in 1986. It also would be the biggest downtown condo building to "deconvert" to apartments, an emerging trend fueled by the hot multifamily rental market. With investors paying up for apartments and prices in some condo buildings still depressed, developers are trying to arbitrage the two markets and profit from the gap in value.

<http://www.sloopin.com/>



Election Day is fast approaching! Please join us for a "Finish Line" fundraiser supporting Genita's campaign for 6th District State Representative.



Thursday, March 3, 2016  
5:30-7:00pm

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Paid for and authorized by Friends of Genita C. Robinson. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board's official website: [elections.il.gov](http://elections.il.gov) State law requires we report names of individuals whose contributions exceeded \$150 and occupation and employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$500 in a calendar year.

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# Theatre

## Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

THROUGH SATURDAY, FEB 20, 2016 6:30PM

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A musical adaptation of Pedro Almodóvar's film of the same name.

Book by Jeffrey Lane

Music and Lyrics by David Yazbek

Music Director Nick Sula

Directed by Amy Uhl

Choreographer: Courtney Ring

Madrid. 1988. The city pulses with art, industry, and passion. Pepa's world, however, is unraveling. First her lover Ivan, leaves her. And then she meets his ex-wife, and his son, and his new girlfriend, all with grief and unresolved issues of their own. Meanwhile, Pepa's best friend is entangled in a romantic crisis with a suspected criminal. The story revolves around women and the men who pursue them: finding them, losing them, needing them, and rejecting them.

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BASED ON THE NOVEL BY AMANDA BROWN AND THE METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER MOTION PICTURE

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MUSICAL DIRECTION BY BONNIE SHADRAKE

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Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

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*Legally Blonde* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.



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based on William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*  
adapted and directed by Damon Kiely

Wizard Prospero wields crashing sea-storms, airy spirits, savage ghost hounds, and terrifying creatures to exact revenge on his enemies—trapping them on his magical island. Will he learn mercy from his teenage daughter, or sink everyone into the sea? This vaudeville adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* uses puppets, singing, slapstick, and magic to weave an enchanting tale of fatherhood and forgiveness.

DePaul University

FEB. 20, 2016

Please check the calendar for specific performance dates.

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# NSPB General Membership Meeting & Luncheon

The Board of Directors of the  
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 Cordially invite you to attend our  
**General Membership Meeting & Luncheon** on  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2016** at the  
**Hyatt Regency McCormick Hotel**  
 2233 S. King Drive  
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Registration - 11:30 a.m.  
 Luncheon & Program - 12:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

## Don Bacigalupi

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*The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art prides itself as being "The first museum of its kind (with) its unique collection featuring popular art from illustration to comics, an insider's perspective on the cinematic creative process, and the boundless potential of the digital medium, ...while emphasizing the same values that distinguish Chicago from other great cities: Community Involvement, diversity, and a commitment to excellence in art, architecture and creativity."*

*With its location being proposed on the Near South Side, how will this "New Museum For Chicago" affect our community? What types of services and programs will be offered for city residents and visitors? What new developments are unfolding in 2016 in regard to the future of this proposed museum? Join us as Don Bacigalupi reveals updated plans for the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art.*

Reservations are required. Seats are limited!

**Member Ticket(s): \$70    Non-Member Ticket(s): \$90**

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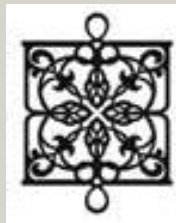
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**Dianna Frid**  
**Thursday, February 18, 2016 6PM**  
**623 S. Wabash Ave, Room 203**

The Art & Art History Department at Columbia College Chicago is pleased to present a lecture by Dianna Frid.

Dianna Frid is an artist working at the intersection of text and textile, matter and subject matter. Her sculptures, installations, artist's book and mixed-media works have been shown nationally and internationally, most recently in Chicago at the Poetry Foundation (2015) and at the Biblioteca Francisco de Burgoa in Mexico (2015). Her work is on view in Chicago at the De Paul University Art Museum in a two-person show with Richard Rezac (from January 28 to April 24). She has received awards from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council and Artadia. Frid was born in Mexico City where she lived as a child until her family immigrated to Canada. She currently lives in Chicago and is an Associate Professor in the Art Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

This lecture is free and open to the public.

Image: *Esta Mina*, 2015, Canvas, colored pencils, aluminum, adhesives,

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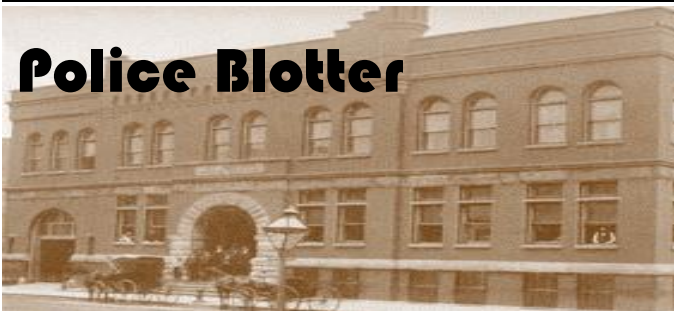
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Next CAPS Meeting Mar 9th, 2016

7PM at 525 S. State St.

(Every 2nd Wednesday)

## Police Blotter



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

Weds, Jan 13, @ 9:53 pm

Roosevelt Rd El Stop

Theft over \$500, **suspect was arrested**

Thurs, Jan 14 @ 5:27 pm

1000 S Wabash

Forcible entry into Apartment

Sat, Jan 16 @ 4:15 pm

900 S Park

Burglary, Forcible entry **White Townhomes**

Mon, Jan 18, 9:35 am

1100 S State at the Red Line subway stop

Strong Arm Robbery, **suspect was arrested**

Mon, Jan 25 @ 2 pm

700 S Plymouth Ct

Theft: From building

Tues, Jan 26 @ 9 am

Harrison and State

Auto theft

Tues, Jan 26 @ 8pm

700 block S Federal St

Theft over \$300 on street

Thurs, Jan 28 @ 11:30 am

700 S Dearborn St

Burglary: Forcible entry

Tues, Feb 2 @ 5:45 am

1100 S. State St

Strongarm Robbery/ no weapon

Tues, Feb 2 @ 11pm

800 S. State St

Theft \$300 and under

All meetings will be held at:

525 S. State

7:00 p.m.

Every Second Wednesday of each month

For Residents on Police Beats: 121, 122, 123, 124



NBC CHICAGO

### Couple Accused of Injuring Paramedics: Police

Cherise Finley, of the **1400 block of South Canal Street**, and Robert Adams, of the 200 block of West Harrison Street, have been charged with aggravated battery to a protected employee, a felony, police said.

Cherise Finley, of the 1400 block of South Canal Street, and Robert Adams, of the **200 block of West Harrison Street**, have been charged with aggravated battery to a protected employee, a felony, police said.

Chicago Fire Department Paramedics were responding to a call of an intoxicated female on the Red Line subway platform in the **600 block of South State Street** around 10:30 p.m., police said.

The pair fled the scene on foot and led authorities on a foot chase, however police took them into custody in the **900 block of South State Street**.

### **Group Trashes 7-Eleven, Brutally Beats CTA Rider with Hammer: Charges**

By [Erica Demarest](#) and [David Matthews](#) | February 12, 2016 3:05pm

COOK COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE — A group of people trashed a Downtown 7-Eleven before brutally attacking a CTA passenger with a hammer, prosecutors said Friday.

The CTA victim, who'd been riding the Blue Line to work, suffered a broken orbital bone and may have permanent vision loss, Cook County prosecutors said during a bond hearing Friday.

Police arrested six suspects early Wednesday, including a man who's wanted for allegedly raping and robbing a man with cerebral palsy in Grant Park on Feb. 2.

The recent crime spree started about 11:45 p.m. Tuesday when roughly 10 people walked into a 7-Eleven at 801 S. State St., prosecutors said.

Na Eem Hoskins, 24, began dancing to distract the 25-year-old store clerk, prosecutors alleged. Meanwhile, Hoskins' accomplices stuffed food and other items into their pockets and bags.

When the clerk tried to stop the group, 19-year-old Deashley Woodard began hitting the man in his head and face, according to prosecutors. Woodard then threw trash around the store before she and her accomplices ran away.

The entire incident was captured on 7-Eleven surveillance footage, court records show. Click to see rest of story:

<https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20160212/downtown/police-nab-six-accused-convenience-store-train-robberies>

<http://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/>

## Technology and Real Estate

Bonnie Muir will be back next month



## Report: Sloop Condo Prices Grew 4% Year-Over-Year

Some good news on the real estate front (via [Chicago Business Journal](#)):

Chicago's condo real estate market appears to be coming out of a eight-year sleep.

According to a new report, there's been a recovery in condo prices, with prices now above their peak level prices in 2008. The average condo cost per square foot in downtown Chicago has reached \$421, which is 1.7 percent above 2008's levels, according to a report by Appraisal Research Counselors.

Specifically related to the Sloop:

"On a year-over-year basis comparing the third quarter of 2014 with the third quarter of 2015, the greatest price increases were experienced in the Loop survey buildings, which rose 11 percent in price, with the West Loop buildings at 9 percent, Gold Coast buildings at 7 percent, South Loop buildings at 4 percent, and Streeterville and River North buildings both having 2 percent price increases on a year over year basis."

Expect to see new condo construction in the near future, as the report's authors write "with the strengthening of prices seen in the resale market, the number of resales taking place, and the lack of new condominium product available for sale, the feasibility of new condominium development is improving and is expected to continue to strengthen."



<http://www.sloopin.com/>

# For Sale

See listings on next page

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er. Very Impressive Condo!

### **600 S. Dearborn St #1104 - \$240,000**

Enormous 1000 Sq Ft 1BR/Den 1BA Soft Loft Condo.  
Hardwood Flooring Throughout, Open Kitchen, Huge LR/  
DR, Bright East Exposure w/City Views. Enormous Master  
Bedroom w/Huge WIC.

### **732 S. Financial Place - Timber & Brick Lofts**

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