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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR thedearbornexpress@gmail.com

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Thursday, September 3, 2015

[New "Northerly Island Parkway" Opens to the Public](http://www.sloopin.com/)

www.sloopin.com/

We've spent a lot of time on this blog pondering the future of Northerly Island and the speculation is about to end as the new redesign of the southern end officially opens on Friday ([via Chicago Tribune](#)):

A dozen years after Mayor Richard M. Daley carried out the infamous "midnight raid" that shut down the small lakefront airport called Meigs Field, the question lingers: Did the end justify the means?

A beguiling landscape that opens to the public Friday at the southern end of the former airport provides a persuasive answer.

As Mayor Rahm Emanuel led a tour Tuesday, great blue herons alighted on a newly created pond, man-made hills screened out the rush of traffic on Lake Shore Drive, and Chicago's skyline unfurled in the distance in all its majesty.

See ya later, airport for politicians and the privileged class. This land is now your land, Chicagoans.

In our opinion the end definitely justified the means. But then again to think of an elected official pulling a move like Mayor Daley did is mind-boggling. We weren't around Chicago when that happened, but still is crazy to contemplate.

Anyway, we're in the present now and what we have here is a nice big present with a bow on it for Chicagoans and Sloopers in general. An amazingly unique public park that is both serene and amazingly close to the heart of a major metropolis.

While scrolling through the pictures on the Tribune's website, it's clear that a lot has changed and that this new park is going to need some time to mature, but be patient because it will be worth it (via Chicago Tribune):

For now, the edges of the trail are fenced, which will give grasses, plants and trees a chance to fill in the somewhat barren, nascent landscape. That will keep much of the park off-limits to people for

(continued on page 6)

In this Issue



Bonnie McGrath talks to Charlotte Adelman regarding the Field Museum's plan to remove a whole grove of Linden Trees. Page 4



Mike on Smart Phones and the Clerk from Kentucky who is refusing to issue marriage licenses Page 5



Beth Finke meets a movie star. Page 9

"Chip Lot" Proposed Development See Page 19

INDEX

Jazz Showcase	p 2
South Loop Neighbors.....	p 3
Bonnies Blog	p 4
Mondays with Mike.....	p 5
Book Review	p 7
Beth Finke	p 8
New Chamber of Commerce.....	p 12
New City	p 10
New Restaurant.....	p 14
Proposed Development	p 19
Police Blotter.....	p 20
Real Estate	p 21, 22

COMING TO THE JAZZ SHOWCASE

Thurs—Sun, Sept 10—13, 8 & 10pm Guitarist Kurt Rosenwinkel Trio
 Sun, 4, 8, & 10pm
 Mon, Sept 14, 8 & 10 pm..... Juli Woods Quartet
 Tues, Sept 15, 8 & 10pm Vocalist Judy Roberts Quartet, Gret Fishman
 Weds, Sept 16, 8 & 10 pm Guitarist Gorn Ivanovic Trio
 Thurs—Sun, Sept 17—20, 8 & 10 pm George Freeman—Chico Freeman
 Sun, 4, 8, 10 pm
 Mon, Sept 21, 8 & 10pm WDCB FREE Night
 Tues, Sept 22, 8 & 10pm Brazillian Guitarist Luciano Antonio Quartet
 Weds, Sept 23, 8 & 10pm The Tom Knific/ Dmitri Matheny Quartet
 Thurs—Sun, Sept 24—27, 8 & 10 pm Saxophonist Ravi Coltrane Quartet
 Sun, 4, 8, & 10pm
 Tues, Sept 29, 8 & 10 pm Bob Mamet Trio
 Weds, Sept 30, 8 & 10 pm Andy Baker Group
 Thurs—Sun, Oct 1— 4, 8 & 10 pm Trumpeter Sean Jones Quartet



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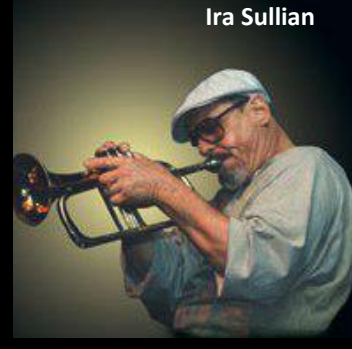
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South Loop Neighbors

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**

Have you ever thought about showing off your South Loop home? You can!

Saturday, October 10 from 12 noon to 5 pm
by *Jim Michaels, board member and membership chair*

If you would like to be a part of this year's Loft Walk, we would love to have you. Want to show off your renovation? A fabulous restoration? Do you have a very cool, very beautiful place?

Or do you just want to volunteer that day as a "docent" so you can tour and view the homes of others at no charge? However you wish to donate your time, South Loop Neighbors needs your help and welcomes your participation.

If you live in any South Loop loft building-or know someone who does-and would be willing to show off your home for the day, contact jim@southloopneighbors.org. We are looking for a variety of interesting spaces! This event is SLN's major fundraiser for the year-and offers us an opportunity to raise the funds to serve you with programs and events all year.



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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 Field Museum wants to tear down big beautiful Linden trees right in their own backyard

When the Linden trees around the Field Museum of Natural History were put in 16 years ago, it was controversial. Too many trees are going to mar the facade, [said the Chicago Tribune's architecture critic](#).

Now that the Field Museum wants to tear down the trees out and replace them with native plantings, [another controversy is sprouting](#).

Who in their right mind would tear down a beautiful grove of healthy trees? Trees that could even *be* native. (There are some Lindens that are [native to the midwest](#).)

I thought it best to consult one of my best friends on the matter: [Charlotte Adelman](#), a native plant advocate from Wilmette, who has co-authored two books on the subject of native plants with her husband Bernard Schwartz--*The Midwestern Native Garden* and *Prairie Directory of North America*. A third book about native trees and shrubs is due to be published next year.

She consistently gives gardeners and arborists a piece of her mind via articles and talks. She is also [responsible for a magnificent public prairie garden](#) in Wilmette. And is vilified--yes, it comes with the territory--by certain neighbors for having a magnificent prairie garden of her own that surrounds her home.

This is what she said:

"Most people have no idea about the value of prairie flowers and grasses to the environment. Removing healthy trees is always a painful decision. In the Midwest, native Midwestern trees perform better than nonnative trees from Europe and Asia and also provide wildlife with benefits not available from species native to Eurasia.

"Although native trees are vitally important and should be planted in areas where they do well, the fact is despite their height their root systems generally go down only about three feet. Although they are important elements in sequestering carbon dioxide they don't compare to prairie plants whose roots extend up to 20 feet down.

"Even if the Lindens are native, the Field Museum plan sounds like a good idea. Having a monoculture of one species of trees brings risks, including enabling a disease to attack all of the trees at the same time. An example is Dutch elm disease, caused in 1928 by Asian beetles hidden in a shipment of logs. The disease reached Chicago by 1960, devastating the city's tree

lined parkways. Another example is the Emerald Ash Borer from China. In 2002, scientists noticed fungus caused by this nonnative insect infecting local ash trees.

"Choosing a variety of plantings is one sensible way to help avoid these tragedies.

"Why choose native plants--trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses and sedges? As evolution explains, native plants co-evolved with native wildlife and each is dependent on the other for good health and survival. A good example is the Monarch Butterfly, the state insect of Illinois. She only lays her eggs and reproduces on the species of native milkweeds with which she co-evolved. No native milkweed? No monarch butterflies. Well planned planting of a variety of native species chosen to support numerous native pollinators and other creatures is a smart solution to many of our environmental problems.

"Ecologists are finally beginning to realize that the significance of native plants includes in great part the insects (many of them important pollinators) and other wildlife they support. If the Field Museum plants true native plants (not [cultivars/nativars](#)) that excel at supporting native butterflies, bees, moths, beetles and other beneficial insects--and other native creatures like birds--they will be improving the environmental health of Chicago.

"The museum will also be setting a fabulous example for Chicago residents--beautiful native species they can plant in their own yards. Presumably the museum will provide information about their plantings to inspire and help those interested in creating healthy and authentic Midwestern gardens, landscapes and even container gardens. And hopefully the museum's example will help banish [Ginkgo trees](#) (origin: China) and other trendy but ecologically useless nonnative species.

"If the museum concentrates on prairie plants, they will be helping to combat global climate change. Why? Because prairie plants absorb and hold (sequester) toxic materials for about 100 years. Called Carbon Sinks, plantings of deep rooted prairie plants are among the best ways to help end air pollution and combat global climate change.

"However, I must say I am surprised to hear about the Field Museum's plan. I thought they were broke and had fired many experts due to a lack of money."

Bonnie McGrath



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

OPINION

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[Mondays with Mike:](#) [They're smart but they're not really phones](#)



Published August 31, 2015 by [mknezo2014](#)

Growing up, the telephone was central to my family's daily life. In the early days we had what was known as a "party line." Essentially, you shared a connection with other households—if you picked up, you might hear their conversation instead of a dial tone, and you'd have to hang up and check later.

Eventually, that ended, and we had our own dedicated line. I still remember our number. I also remember being aggravated that my mother, an elementary school teacher, would be on the phone endlessly. Some of it was her propensity to talk, but a lot of it was her being a good teacher—she made herself available to parents of her students, and they took full advantage.

I remember being home sick from the first grade, and my mom staying home with me. I was lying on the couch and we were watching *As The World Turns* and Walter Cronkite came on to announce that President Kennedy had been shot. A little later, we learned the president was dead, and my mom was on the phone with her mother. "And now we have that SOB Johnson," I clearly recall her saying.

As I got older I would call my friends to arrange to do whatever we did back then. Sometimes we'd talk at length, though I can't remember what we talked about. And I remember, staring at the phone, picking it up and putting it back down, until finally I mustered up the courage to dial and ask a girl out for a date.

When I went away to college, the phone calls to home, to high school friends who went to college elsewhere, were somewhat precious – they weren't cheap. The same was true after I moved to Washington, D.C. to take my first job.

Today, I rarely have a real conversation on the phone. It's usually a brief confirmation of some arrangement already communicated via text or email. Even at work, it's the last resort—[except for the painful modern phenomenon, the conference call.](#) Beth and I still have a land line. We kept it for all these years largely because Beth's mom, Flo, had a hard time hearing via a cell connection.

That was partly age and compromised hearing. But, [as this terrific article in The Atlantic explains,](#) it was more because, well, cell phones stink at being phones. I hope you'll read the article—but in brief, the point is, as advanced as our smartphones are at digital stuff, they are a quantifiable step back in quality when it comes to voice transmission. For one, they don't cover the full audio spectrum that we need for a conversation. For another, the connections aren't nearly as reliable as old fashioned wire. And finally, something basic—they're not full duplex, which means, in plain terms, that two parties can talk at the same time.

I don't expect we'll go back to land lines, and having long, heartfelt phone conversations. But the article was a reminder that often, when something is gained, something else is lost.

She really doesn't know what's good for her

About this thing in Kentucky: When you cut through the screeds and snark, it really is a pretty big deal. But something isn't getting enough play.

That is: [The First Amendment is why we have religious freedom in the United States.](#) Preventing the government from promoting or projecting any one religion over another is why we can have so many people practicing so many different faiths. And when you think about it, without such a protection, things could get really ugly and crazy fast. Like, the government could promote one flavor of Christianity over another. Or Orthodox Judaism over Reformed.

Best, the founders thought, to keep government out of the religion business altogether, and to prevent it from stopping anyone from practicing their particular faith.

I think what we're witnessing reflects a troublesome ignorance of the principles behind the First Amendment. That clerk in Kentucky doesn't know that she's spitting on the part of the constitution that ensures she can worship as she pleases.

Beyond ignorance, it takes a certain kind of selfish entitlement to presume that while working as a public servant she can refuse service to someone who doesn't share her faith and attendant beliefs. They have the same right that she does--to worship (or not) as they see fit.

It borders on crazy. But that's where we're at these days.

Next Edition,

Wednesday, Sept. 30th, 2015



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. It is our hope that we will be able to expand our features and publish every 20 days. If you have any questions or would like to contribute information, please email us :

thedearbornexpress@gmail.com

(Continued from Page 1 Northerly Island)

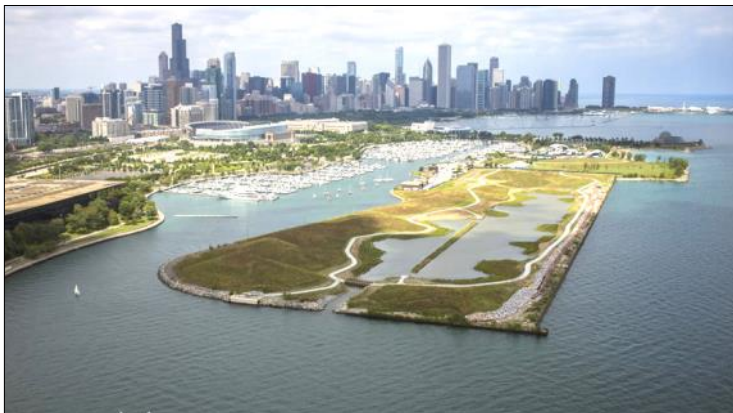


Photo Chicago Tribune

camping and other programs. some time, though exceptions will be made for

A contractor hired by the Army Corps plans to install nearly 12,000 shrubs and more than 400 trees before work is completed in 2017. Walking paths will traverse the open spaces once that work is completed.

While **there were (still are?) plans expand Northerly Island**, that seems like it won't be happening any time soon since it would cost quite a bit to build reefs and new areas that didn't exist. And if that has you disappointed, just look west across Burnham Harbor to the next frontier of potential public space - **the proposed Lucas Museum**. While the initial designs were met with a ton of opposition, it sounds like **a new round of renderings are going to be revealed soon to try to appease the public** (however probably still **won't get support by many open space advocates**). (Continued next column)

Saturday, September 12

Yard Sale

Dearborn

Park

8:00 am to 3:00 pm

It's that time again, clean out the old (make room for the new?)



Dearborn Park is at 9th and Plymouth

There is no charge for sellers who are members of SLN. We ask nonmember sellers for \$20 to offset the costs of permits and insurance.

Bring your own tables, blankets, or anything else you need to display your wares.

Contact sandi@southloopneighbors.org

While we're going to reserve judgement about the Lucas Museum, one component we did like was that the plan had a bridge that would allow you to access Northerly Island at 18th street (not just via Solidarity Drive between the Field and Adler).

Anyway, head on over to the new Northerly Island, take a stroll and let us know what you think about this thing!

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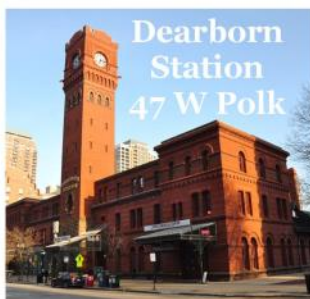
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David McCullough, Pulitzer-prize-winning historian, brings us **The Wright Brothers**, (Simon and Schuster 2015), bicycle mechanics who worked their way up, about whom it's been said "inventing the first viable airplane is more exciting than anything else about them." The brothers never dated, drank, or doubted themselves. They were, instead, the "workingest" boys in history—inseparable siblings who did everything together, and who inherited mechanical aptitude from their mother, who died young but not before fixing or reconstructing nearly everything in their home. The author, the Wrights, and their contemporaries, celebrate their sturdy Midwestern values, suggesting that the work ethic of the Great Plains, as much as the Wrights' own genius, led to their mastery of human flight. Wilbur wrote that the key to success is to "pick out a good father and mother, and begin life in Ohio." Not all Midwesterners are inestimable: brainy Wilbur had to abandon plans to study at Yale after being seriously hurt by a fellow Daytonian, who would eventually kill his family and murder a dozen others, who smashed Wilbur with a hockey puck and left him homebound and reclusive, giving him three years to study everything written about becoming airborne. The book's charm is neither its human subjects nor the emergence of human flight. The brothers are boring, and the author, who knows a great deal more about people and Paris (where the Wrights lived for a while) than about planes, skimps on the science of aerodynamics, while engaging us with stories of mechanics, millionaires and monarchs who helped the Wrights along the way. Engineers and aerophiles will be disappointed. But the breadth of the primary material: the Wright family correspondence; letters to and from the most important scientists of the time; news reports; presidential speeches; the brothers' copious record-keeping; their father's sermons and prayers; celebrity interviews; recollections from locals in Kitty Hawk North Carolina, keep the reader interested. We all know how it ends.

Lorraine Schmall

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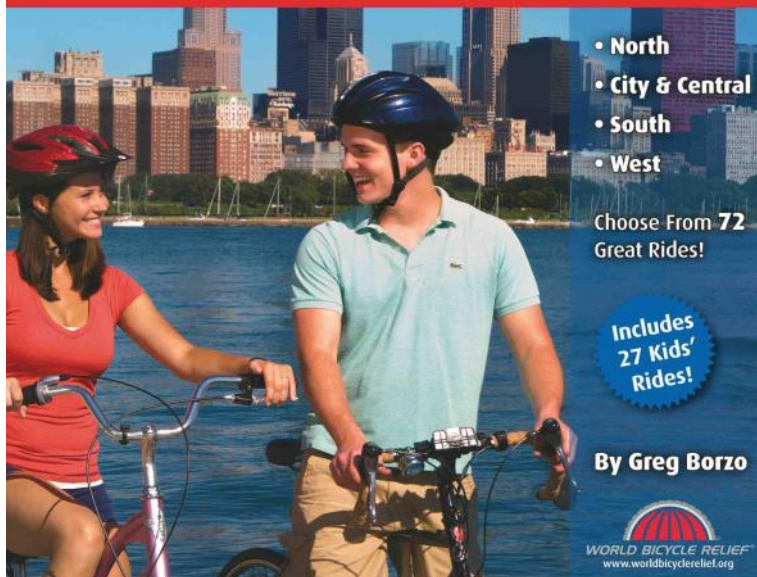
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Safe & Sound Blog

by Beth Finke

<http://Bethfinke.wordsmith.com>



[I was on stage with a TV star last week](#)

If you watched the Grey's Anatomy spin-off show Private Practice when it was on ABC a few years ago, you know who Dr. Gabriel Fife is. The genetics specialist was introduced in the third season as a love interest who worked for a rival medical practice. The character used a wheelchair, and so does the actor who played him: Michael Patrick Thornton. Private Practice went off the air in 2013, but national TV watchers loss is Chicago's gain: Michael Patrick Thornton is a native Chicagoan, and now that he's back in town full-time we get to see him live on stage here.

I myself appeared on stage last week at Chicago's Goodman Theatre with Michael Patrick Thornton, and after sharing the stage with him, you know, I just call him Michael. We were there with other disability advocates at "Greater Together," Chicago's first Cultural Accessibility Summit.

My job was to give a short testimonial on how important it is for civic and cultural leaders (hundreds of them were there in the audience) to support accessible programming at the museums, theatres and foundations they work for. Michael was there in his real-life role as the Artistic Director & Co-founder of [The Gift Theatre](#) in Chicago. He talked candidly with the audience about the spinal stroke he suffered at age 23 and what it was like to emerge from a coma three days later on life support.

"It took a while for doctors to figure out what happened to me -- it was very Dr. House-like," he said, the sound of dark humor in his voice. He left the hospital paralyzed from the neck down, and after years of hard work at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago he's regained some of his mobility.

Michael Patrick Thornton's interest in theater started when he was in high school, and he and [William Nedved](#) had founded The Gift Theatre Company two years before Michael's spinal stroke. Michael didn't take much of a break from The Gift during his recovery -- a 2006 [story in the Chicago Reader](#) marveled that months after suffering a second stroke during rehab, Thornton "was directing *Language of Angels*, holding auditions at RIC while still an inpatient."

During the Q&A last week an audience member thanked Thornton for applauding the work the Chicago arts community is doing to improve accessibility for patrons, but she wondered if the same could be said for performers. "Have things improved for actors in wheelchairs, too?"

Michael answered with an immediate "no." Actors with disabilities are woefully underrepresented on stage and screen, he said. "I'm pretty much it."

He told the audience that one thing he can do to advance the cause for other actors with disabilities is to take on roles as someone's best friend, or a lawyer, or a criminal, people like that -- avoid lead roles in inspirational stories about heroes with disabilities who triumph over adversity. "I want parts where the wheelchair never once gets mentioned."

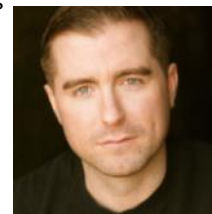
Michael Patrick Thornton played Iago in Gift's production of *Othello* last year, and when I talked to him after our presentation last week he told me how thrilled he is to be directing the world premiere of David Rabe's

<http://www.thegifttheatre.org/shows-events/good-for-otto>; *Good for Otto* at Gift next month.

But wait. There's more: in March of next year he has the lead role in [Gift's production of *Richard III*](#), which will be staged at Chicago's [Steppenwolf Theatre](#) to accommodate larger audiences. Here's a prepared statement from Michael about the upcoming season, which will be The Gift's 15th:

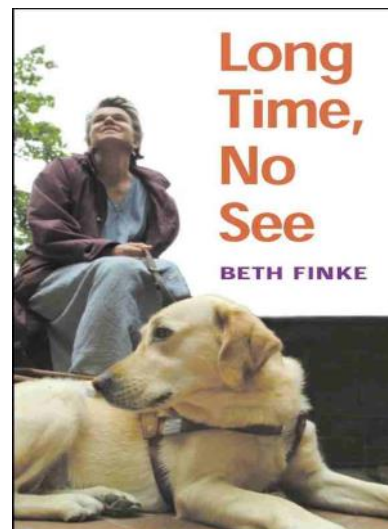
Great theater asks great questions. Our milestone anniversary season asks: 'What does it mean to be human?' In perfect circuitousness, we begin where many of us first met -- at Steppenwolf. In collaboration with our lead production sponsor, The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, we will present a definitive 'Richard III' for the ages, performed in conjunction with Shakespeare's 400th anniversary. It will re-define what disability, ability, and Shakespeare's villain can look like.

Good for Otto opens at The Gift Theatre in Chicago's Jefferson park neighborhood next month, and *Richard III* opens in March, 2016 at Steppenwolf's Garage Theatre at 1650 N. Halsted in Chicago. Mark your calendars now and look for me at both performances -- I'll be in the audience this time.



Michael Patrick Thornton

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





LEFT: An explosion of flowers at the Ferd Kramer Park which is located just west of Dearborn Station and maintained by Parkpals@southloopneighbors.com



RIGHT: A Moon Flower growing on a trellis on the side of the Transportation Building in Printers Row Park. Maintained by Parkpals@southloopneighbors.com. Photos by Mary Ivory

AMLI Pays City to Install Divvy Station Outside their Buildings on Clark

As we know, more and more housing options seem to spring up daily in the Sloop. Competition is fierce and the peeps at AMLI added a interesting (and smart) amenity to their properties (via [Chicago Tribune](#)):

A Chicago real estate developer paid the city \$56,000 to install a Divvy bicycle-sharing station outside two of its apartment buildings in the South Loop, officials are expected to announce Friday.

The agreement with AMLI Residential marks the first private purchase of a Divvy station since the bike-sharing program was launched in mid-2013, officials said. City officials called the deal a "private donation."

AMLI covered the cost of installing the 15-dock station at Clark and Ninth streets and provided 10 bikes, according to the Chicago Department of Transportation.

The station, which is already open, is part of the 476-station Divvy system and is operated for public use like all other stations, officials said. The only difference is that the station will have an AMLI logo added soon, officials said.

[We're big fans of the Divvy program](#) and if we were searching for a new place this would probably sway us.



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South Loop's British School Opens Rooftop Park to Public Despite Opposition

By [Kelly Bauer](#) | August 27, 2015
@bauerjournalism

SOUTH LOOP — The [British International School](#) has opened its rooftop park, which will be open to the public, despite a history of opposition from some residents.

Opponents of the rooftop park had been [concerned the space wouldn't fulfill a promise to the public that the location would be used for green space](#). They spoke out at meetings and wrote to Ald. Danny Solís (25th), who supported the rooftop park. But, at the park's grand opening Wednesday, speakers said the school's backers had "drowned out" those voices with their support and thanked the city and Solís.

Solís said he hopes the park will become an "anchor" that leads to further development of the area. While he received letters opposing the park when [it was proposed](#), he's now received a letter complimenting the park but speaking out against another area development, he said.

"Look, it's really added a lot to this community," Solís said he would tell any people who still oppose the park. "People are using this place."

Martha Garcia Barragan — who has two sons, Santiago and Nicolas, at the British School — said putting the park on the school's roof is a "great compromise." She said she understood residents' concerns and attended community meetings where the school and rooftop park were debated, but she thinks the project is better than the vacant land that was at the property



"This is fabulous for us to be here in the new building," she said.

Samantha Kozloff, who has a daughter at the school, said she's "all for" the rooftop park.

"It's great to have a park in the city anywhere," Kozloff, of the South Loop, said. "Who wouldn't want to come?"

Stephen Bridges, the British consul general in Chicago, echoed Headmaster Michael Horton in saying more British Schools could open in the city following the opening of the South Loop building.

"We're talking about the British invasion and imperialism again," he joked.

The park is open 9 a.m.-9 p.m. It is accessible by an exterior staircase or elevator at the school, 161 W. Ninth Street

* Editors note. The original proposed development was that the entire parcel of land was promised as a park and legally backed by city ordinance. An amendment had to be approved changing it so that a building could be built on the site and a roof top park created on the roof. The adjacent soccer field is not currently open to the public.



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Dearborn Park Resident hauls Lake Michigan water on back to train for clean water race



By **Leonor Vivanco** **RedEye** *contact the reporter*

Clean water—and how to get it to people—weighs heavily on Chicagoan Rusty Funk.

This month, Funk has been running 6 kilometers, 3.73 miles, from his South Loop home to Oak Street Beach to fill up a jerrycan of water that he straps onto his back before walking home 40 pounds heavier.

The 2 1/2-hour trek is to promote and gear up for Saturday's (Aug 22nd) [World Vision's 6K for Water](#) race at Montrose Harbor to benefit people in Kenya who on average have to travel 6 kilometers to get water, which is often unsafe to drink.

"When I'm hurting out there, I think, 'Holy cow, these women and children have strength and grit,'" said Funk, 30, the race director. On his most recent trip to Kenya in May, Funk met Jen Kipsong, who said she had been praying for clean water to come since 1985, as long as Funk has been alive. That's whom he thinks of when he's running to the lakefront or walking home.

"I never had to feel their pain," Funk said. "It's just humbled me."

For the rest of the story, click

<http://www.redeyechicago.com/news/redeye-chicago-6k-race-water-20150817-story.html>

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South Loop Alliance *Launch Party*

September 24th, 2015

6:00-9:00pm

1550 S. State St
Chicago, IL 60605

For more information
and to RSVP
www.southloopalliance.org



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hood.

Holy Trinity in the Loop, an extension of
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wrigley-
ville, 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 Lu-
theran 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 orga-
nized religion, you are welcome here."

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

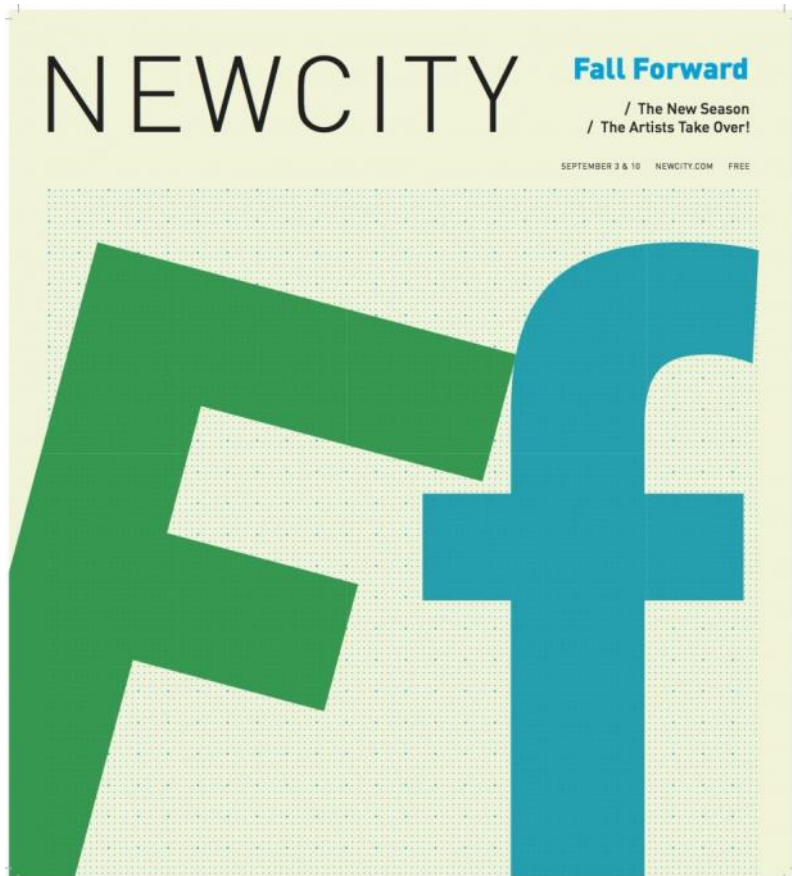
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The Artists Take Over With the fall art opening season pushing back closer to Expo Chicago, we decided this year to combine our Big Art Issue into our fall arts preview edition. But we wanted to keep that edition's unique creative fire burning—remember last year's takeover by Puppies Puppies?—and so decided to take the concept one step further. This year, the entire fall preview was created by artists selected by the editors in each discipline. And wow, what a range of work we're excited to share with you!

Art An anonymous "takeover" by an invited artist. See our Eye Exam column.

Comedy He may be billed as "The World's Greatest Mime" but the buffoon clown Honeybuns is never short for words. So we asked for his professional take on this fall's comedy scene, making our own Zach Freeman his straight man.

Dance Onye Ozuzu, who is now acting dean of Fine & Performing Arts at Columbia College Chicago, is a dancer, choreographer, administrator, researcher and all-around deep thinker on the culture. For our dance preview, she draws upon her vast network of talented friends to create a broad and inclusive list of fall essentials.

Design Fletcher Martin is founding principal and creative director of branding agency a5. In that role, he's responsible for many of the graphic identities that surround us. Beyond his role as designer, he is also an illustrator. So for the design section, he took complete control and made his own page. We liked it so much that we commissioned him to make the cover, too.

Dining & Drinking The first time Newcity dining & drinking editor David Hammond ever heard Iliana Regan speak, it was in a video shot by James Beard Award recipient Michael Gebert. Regan was talking about how it would be a dream come true for her to come upon a Mad Hatter's Tea Party in the middle of a wood. The impulse to give in to fantasy, to weave a web of make-believe over the dining experience, has characterized Regan's work at Elizabeth (4835 North Western), her first restaurant. It's fair to say that there is no other restaurant like Elizabeth in Chicago, though if one were to draw comparisons, it would be with Michelin three-star places like Alinea. Elizabeth is priced much more reasonably, but the same spirit of invention, creativity and kitchen artistry is apparent at both remarkable restaurants. We asked Regan to tell us a little about how her autumn menu reflects specific themes and how they all contribute to her artistic vision. Plus, here's a few key fall events from David Hammond.

Film We asked several of Chicago's leading filmmakers to discuss the films and filmmakers they're most excited about this fall. From the love of Agnès Varda by both Jennifer Reeder and Melika Bass to the homage to, yes, Robert Zemeckis by Stephen Cone, we've got some real cinematic range for you.

Lit Christine Sneed is one of Chicago's most acclaimed and prolific novelists. Her debut story collection, "Portraits of a Few of the People I've Made Cry" was published to considerable favor in 2010, and she followed with the novel "Little Known Facts" in 2013 and "Paris, He Said" came out this spring.

Music Seth Boustead is a composer, arts manager and writer and concert producer whose over the past dozen years forged a highly personal musical identity through a prolific outpouring of works in every conceivable genre. His orchestra piece "This Point Forward" was a finalist for the American Prize in 2012. He also hosts the radio show "Relevant Tones" on WFMT, and seeks to revolutionize how and where classical music is performed and how it is perceived by the general public. He prepared his fall preview by composing a piece of music, "Step Into Fall," which you can play yourself using the sheet music provided, or visit music.newcity.com to listen to an mp3 by the artist himself.

Theater & Opera Honeybuns and Zach (see Comedy) had so much fun, they just kept going, tearing up the worlds of theater and opera with equal vigor. - See more at: <http://newcity.com/2015/09/03/fall-forward-a-guide-to-the-new-season/#more-12513>

NEWCITY

<http://newcity.com/>

Sociale and Cafe Press - the New Restaurant/Coffee House at 800 S. Clark - Sets Opening Date for September 25th

An exciting update and an opening date for the soon to be opened Sociale and Café Press (800 S. Clark) via [Chicago Magazine](#):

If chef John McLean's beef-and-beer haven Burger Bar is the most American concept in Chicago, his new South-Loop venture is the opposite. Coming September 25 from the Levy Restaurants vet and his business partner Martin Murch is the Euro-steeped dual-storefront Sociale and Café Press (800 S. Clark, South Loop), a small-plates restaurant and an adjoining farmhouse coffee shop. Sparked by McLean's and Murch's various trips to Europe through decades in the restaurant biz, Sociale will promote communal dining by way of shareables from the Mediterranean. Ingredients will skew wonky (sumac-seared sea scallops with pistachio butter, manchego-cheese flatbread), and most dishes will be cooked on a wood-fired grill at the center of the rustic 120-seat space. For dinnertime traditionalists, the menu will boast a few larger single-serving entrees (see the wet-aged bone-in ribeye) and a dessert program including buttercake, homemade ice cream, and zeppole—basically tiny Italian doughnut holes.

If that's not enough, looks like you will also be getting a new solid spot to sip some coffee and other more exotic drinks:

Next door, 22-seat Café Press will sling your standard Eurocafé fare—paninis, salads, and a deluxe selection of pastry—but what's special is a coffee program by Sparrow Roastery, who up until now eschewed retail locations for restaurants (including many with Michelin stars)... Concretely, that means flavor profiles that are mysterious even to Café Press's owners, but patrons can expect a spread of rich, nitrous-infused teas and, of course, decadent gourmet sweets (doughnuts, anyone?).

Maybe it's the punchy writing from Chicago Magazine, but after reading this preview we are eagerly counting down the days to September 25th.

Seems like a great addition to the Sloop - hope it's as good as advertised!



Fig and radicchio salad at Sociale
PHOTO COURTESY GOOD EATS GROUP



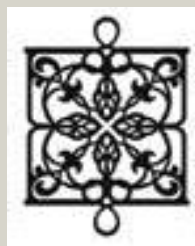
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with Bernadette Doran



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Exclusively for Equilibrium Reiki students. Join us for an informal, empowering class with Reiki Master Teacher Bernadette Doran to ask questions, share experiences, and receive guidance in your development. All levels of Reiki students are invited to attend, to increase your knowledge base as well as your confidence as a Reiki practitioner. No hands-on practice is involved -- that happens at the monthly Free Reiki Student Practice, please come to that too! This event is for discussion only, and is your opportunity to get personal mentoring and answers to questions that have come up in doing Reiki work on yourself and on others.

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South Loop Referral Group

Meets every other Friday at 7:30 am
At Dearborn Station Atrium

Next
Meeting Fri
Sept 18 at
Au Bon Pain

South Loop Referral Group is a professional organization, made up of individuals with a high level of skill and passion for serving their community. The members all live and work in the south loop area: which means they are well known locally with many resources and testimonials. A referral groups goal is to have only one representative from each category. The quality of their work and the care they provide makes them truly unique, and whether you are looking for a printer, a banker or a contractor, you can be sure whomever you hire from our group, will be attentive, on time, and competitively priced.

The group also serves as a rainmaker, encouraging local business development and supporting a thriving professional community in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood through motivation, communication, and education.



Mark Your Calendars: the third-annual WAC Crawl will be Friday, October 23rd!

The WAC Crawl will include a stunning array of new, large-scale street and public art, an expansive cultural program ranging from the Joffrey Ballet to blues, jazz and hip-hop performances, tours of historic and new architecture, some twenty gallery openings, and special food and drink offerings from local restaurants and bars.

The WAC Crawl in its first year was nominated by Friends of Downtown for “Best Event” as part of their 2014 “Best of Downtown” awards. In its second year, the WAC Crawl is expected to emerge as one of Chicago’s major cultural events.

The Wabash Arts Corridor Crawl unleashes the unbridled talent and energy of the Wabash Arts Corridor and its partners.

<http://wabashartscorridor.org/>

Before and After: Columbia alumna **Heidi Unkefer** finished her mural on 623 South Wabash last week and it looks amazing! Go check it out in person because the pictures just don't do it justice

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Glockenspiel

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 7:00PM → [MORE](#)

[DATES THROUGH OCTOBER 7, 2015](#)

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Written and Directed by Steve Dykes (Visiting Faculty from Rose Bruford College, UK)

At a time when the United States' volunteer army is stretched to the breaking

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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Tutoring Program at Second Presbyterian Church will begin with an Open House on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m. Free tutoring, help with homework and preparation for exams is offered each Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. by women from the Junior League of Chicago and other volunteers from Old St. Mary's Church, Trinity Episcopal Church and the South Loop neighborhood. Parents and children (grades 3-8) are welcome to the Open House to meet the tutors and hear about the program. All are welcome. For more information, please call the church office (312) 225-4951. Registration forms can be found at

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South Loop Teen Earns Girl Scouts' Highest Award for Leadership and Community Service

More than 50 local high school students recently earned Girl Scouts of the USA's most prestigious national honor for girls, the Girl Scout Gold Award. Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana honored their accomplishments during a special ceremony on June 6, 2015, at the Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook.



Olivia Turk, 17, of South Loop received her Girl Scout Gold Award after completing a complex series of requirements, including the implementation of a significant community service project.

Turk earned her Gold Award by initiating "Global Youth Changes/Global Youth Exchange." Through a [Tumblr blog](#), Turk developed a forum for youth around the world to connect on issues that matter most to them.

"Launching my blog at the United Nations Youth Assembly, a big international event for young people, seemed a bit daunting to me at first," said Turk. "I can sometimes be quiet and shy away from talking in settings with lots of people. However, I proved to myself that I could interact with a lot of people from around the world and find common ground through topics of interest to all of us."

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout ages 14-18 may earn. The leadership skills, organizational skills, and sense of community and commitment required to complete the process set the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship. Girls complete seven steps to earn the Gold Award, including the completion of a significant service project.



Two Buildings. The one on the left is the new 1000 S. Clark building is has just topped off. The building on the right is the Amli 900 Building which is about five years old.



Thursday, September 24, 2015
Kroll's South Loop
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Goodbye Bob's Christmas Tree Lot Hello 15 Story Apartment Building

The South Loop Neighbors membership meeting drew an interested crowd to Grace Place Thursday evening to hear about plans for a new high rise building to occupy what is known in the neighborhood as the "Chip Lot" at Polk and Dearborn Streets, northwest corner. It is proposed by LG Development Group to be a mixed use development featuring approximately 1000 Sq Feet of retail space, 4 floors devoted as an extended stay lodging, and the rest of the residential floors as Studio apartments. There would be 10 apartments per floor of about 335 square feet each. This is a concept more common in expensive cities like New York and San Francisco, however, there are several buildings that have been built on the north side using this concept using 619 N. LaSalle as an example. They are speaking to the community about the proposed project before a design architect has been hired. The façade proposed now is brick and glass in a contemporary style. They are following guidelines by the Landmarks

Commission who encouraged the firm to not build taller than the adjacent building which is the historic Franklin building.



Questions from the audience, many from the Franklin building, expressed concern but not anger, asking for clarification on several points. Although the proposed development is consistent with DX12, it will require a request for a special use permit based on the small size of the apartments. Anyone who wishes to communicate with LG Development can get contact information from South Loop Neighbors.

<http://www.southloopneighbors.org/>
312.409.1700

SOLUTIONS to avoid a budget crisis in CPS



We need a multi-pronged approach to solving the deficit at CPS.

CPS has made some poor spending decisions over the past few years, but we can't undo those. The city and state *can* move forward to make sure that our schools do not receive further drastic cuts. The future of Chicago depends on a healthy, resourced public school system. We need all stakeholders to work together to make sure schools open on time and without cuts.

There are multiple ways the city and state could raise revenue and decrease costs.

Cut Costs

Potential cuts to Central Office: \$60M+
FACE, Incubation, Accountability, Network Offices: cut in half = \$46M

Human Capital Office: \$30M budgeted for 112 positions FY14, ended with 51 positions in FY13.

Corporate Accounting- Up \$29M from FY2014.

Cut contract spending: up to \$177M

More than \$1.1 billion budgeted for contracts in FY15. \$320M for professional and technical services or contractual services.

At least \$177 million of contracts approved in FY14 should be re-examined, including payments to the Chicago Police for \$39M and \$15M in cloud contracts flagged by the Sun-Times in Nov. 2014.

In FY2015, CPS spent more than \$25M on contracts with ed tech and standardized testing companies. Contract details are [at our website](#)

*Also, review Aramark contract- not included in these numbers.

Cost-saving CTU contract items

- Increase teachers' daily prep and prof. development time, e.g., AM prep
- Reduce standardized testing and teacher paperwork (most is testing related)
- Moratorium on charter expansion

Raise Revenue

State

End Double pension payment

Chicago taxpayers are paying into two pension systems while the rest of the state is not paying into Chicago pensions. Estimated between \$200-\$300 million.

Chicago's share would go up if we weren't double paying.

State income tax

Currently IL has flat tax of 3.75% (down from 5%). Every ¼% increase yields a billion dollars in revenue. A progressive income tax would tax earners in a fair way based on ability to pay and raise more revenue.

Sales tax on services

Could yield \$300M for city. Indirect benefit to CPS.

More options: [Voices for IL Children report bit.ly/chooserev](#)

TIF surplus return: \$200M to CPS

The city brought in \$422 million last year in new TIF increment. Last year there was \$1.7B in TIF accounts. New accounting will be done in July. 53% of TIF surplus goes back to CPS. The City should declare a surplus of at least \$400 million in TIF which would yield over \$200 million for CPS. This would still leave a lot of money in the TIF jar to cover expenses.

If there are questions about the status of monies in TIF accounts, the city should provide a full, transparent review of TIF projects, including contracts for committed projects and TIF district status. TIF districts that do not meet "but for the TIF definition" should be shut down.

Moderate property tax increase: \$100M

Currently, Chicago has a lower property tax rate than the rest of the state. As a last resort for revenue increase, CPS's property tax rate could increase by 4.4% to yield \$100M. This would need approval from the state legislature.

City

Technology and Real Estate

Bonnie Muir Owner Broker
Castle Keepers Realty
729 S Dearborn St. Chicago
60605 312- 753-5106



Bonnie will return with a column next issue.

Last week's Sloopin Open House Who Wouldn't Like a 500 Square Foot Terrace?

This week open house pickings look to be a little slimmer than usual, must be the end of the real estate busy season (which makes sense as winter is just around the corner?).

However, this week one specific unit in Dearborn Park stuck out to us. Yes, the building is of the older variety (built in 1980) and might not have the bells & whistles of newer construction, but what it lacks in this department it makes up with an abundance of awesome outdoor space:

It seems like you'd be hard pressed to find a new construction 2 bedroom with outdoor space like this, so if you like al fresco dining and entertaining, [we'd suggest a gander at unit #510 at 1169 S. Plymouth Ct](#)

Matt Laricy
Managing Partner
375 w Erie 103A
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See listings on next page

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geous Top Floor 2BR/2BA Loft.
Spacious, Open Floorplan - fully
rehabbed w/Hardwood Floors,
Stainless/Granite Kitchen, Spa
Baths & huge Balcony w/Direct
views of the city Skyline!

\$499,000 + \$30K for Parking

UNDER CONTRACT

600 S. Dearborn St #302 - \$325,000
600 S, Dearborn St #1307 - \$319,900
600 S. Dearborn St #914 - \$249,900

Dearborn

Street

Realty LLC

Tom -
TomFeddor@gmail.com
M- 312-203-3841
John -
JohnZimmers@aol.com
M- 773-617-4734

715 S Dearborn, Unit 1
Office/ Store in Donahue
Building

22x140; 2640 Sq Ft
\$359,000

SOLD!

Filberto Alonzo
Castle Keepers
773.318.6754



161 W Harrison, #1205
2 bed/ 2 bath, 1700 Sq Ft
Duplex
\$519,000

Cynthia Bauer
ReMax
312.882.8267



520 S State, #1514
1 bed/ 1 bath, 1000 Sq Ft
\$289,000

Jordan Heneghan
D'aprile Properties
312.492.7900



732 Financial Pl, #713
Studio/ 1 Bath,
820 Sq Ft
\$189,000

Wade Marshal
Berkshire Hathaway
312.291.1960

