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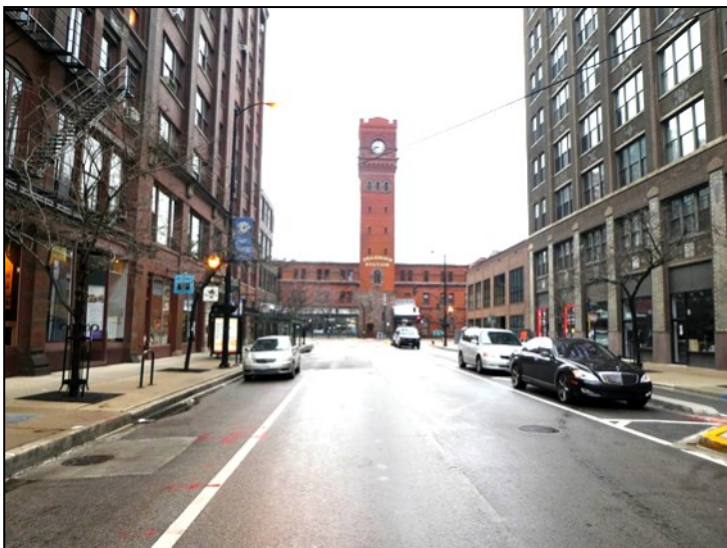
AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR  
JANICE KOERBER, ASST. EDITOR

[Dearbornexpress.net](http://Dearbornexpress.net)



## The New Normal was last week. Now it's the New New Normal

For those of us who are fortunate enough to be on fixed incomes (I never thought I'd say that), consider the check you receive from Uncle Sam as a gift to share. I can't help everybody, but I am going to support the local restaurants in the neighborhood who provide good food and employment for lots of deserving people. When you think about it, buying gift certificates will help them stay afloat but comes back to you when things return to (I almost hate to say it) normal. Back to a place where we can again mingle and dine in. And don't forget our local Jazz venue, the Jazz Showcase. We're fortunate to have this iconic institution here in the South Loop and we hope it stays for years to come. So keep the faith. Stay Calm and "Carry-Out."



Dearborn Street looking south towards the station on Mar. 23, 2020

March 30, 2020

Vol. 8, No. 4

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Dear family and friends,

The Coronavirus has shaken our family of dedicated employees. We're doing everything we can to help them through this period while trying to make certain that there will be a stable Musical Home to return to.

We are moved by those of you that have reached out wondering how they can help. If you would like to help now until we're able to reopen, 100% of every gift certificate you purchase will go to help our employees and their families through this difficult time! Once we have reopened, those gift certificates can be redeemed to come out and hear live music again.

We thank you with great gratitude,

Wayne, Joe, Ainsley, Tijana, Carly Babo, Jonathan G. & Jonathan T.

To purchase a gift certificate click the button below and send your **name**, desired **amount** (starting as low as \$25), and **preferred payment method** (Venmo, Zelle, check) to Ainsley, our general manager.

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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)

## South Loop Neighbors

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Christine Hunt- director

During this difficult time, there are a number of restaurants that have stayed open to provide meals via takeout and/or delivery.

Click [Restaurants](#) to see list of locations open for takeout/pickup and/or delivery. If you click on the specific location, it will bring you to their specific website.

As things are changing daily, the list will be updated on a frequent basis as needed.

### Remember - Live local - Shop local

Additionally, in an effort to support local restaurants, **Gordon's Ace Hardware is offering 10% off purchases with a receipt from a local restaurant.** The store in South Loop remains open and they look forward to helping our community and local restaurants.



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## We're in dystopia and it's back to the basics with food

Now that we're in dystopia, my diet is like a menu from a women's magazine from the old days--for young women who wanted to lose five pounds. They seemed like a good idea--but the food was so skimpy. And no one could stay on diets like that for more than a meal. Or two.

But now, eating a daily diet that an editor at Glamour may have written up in 1966 provides structure. And the ingredients are easy to get at Trader Joe's. And are probably good for resisting invasive invisible little fairy-dust-like Corona viruses, if they happen to get into your mouth, eyes or nose via your own unwashed hands, and multiply by hijacking the DNA in your lungs.

So the following is typical of what I'm eating these days; and very typical of how those diets were in the old magazines.

**Breakfast:** oatmeal, fresh berries, half-banana and coffee (I use 1/2 and 1/2 or even heavy cream but the original diets would have only allowed skim milk)

**Midmorning snack:** a slice of whole wheat toast with peanut butter (I use the kind with nothing but peanuts and salt)

**Lunch:** another slice of whole wheat toast with mayonnaise and sliced cold chicken (from last night's nicely roasted chicken), two slices of tomato and an apple for dessert

**Dinner:** a small salad of butter lettuce, grape tomatoes, a green onion and dressing of choice; a 2-egg omelet with asparagus, smoked salmon, onion (white or red), cheddar cheese and a fresh orange, cut in quarters

**Bedtime snack:** two squares of dark chocolate (this wouldn't have been on the menu back then because no one knew about it yet) and a cup of tea with lemon and sliced kiwifruit

I think about this kind of food all day. Because it's pretty much the only thing that requires planning now. Because I have to make sure that the refrigerator is stocked and that all the items are there. I can't go to the store any more than absolutely necessary. I probably shouldn't go at all.

No more dinners out before plays or concerts, obviously; or lunch meetings where lunch is provided; or brunch with girlfriends who want to get together to chat; or stops at fast food places where I love their salads and sandwiches and almond croissants and brownies.

It's just me and my food and turning on the dishwasher every day with a full load. I stopped doing that about the time menopause struck, never looking back or caring. Because of the rise of meals on the go, meals cooked by someone else and meals that only money could buy--all prepared. I only turned my dishwasher on every two weeks to wash coffee cups.

So I read this terrific article last night that a friend shared on Facebook about a couple who lives in New York. He's a chef at the [two-Michelin-star Atera](#). And he's off work since dystopia struck. She's a prolific freelance writer and she's moved in with him for the duration. They don't live together

ordinarily. She lives Uptown and he lives south in another Manhattan neighborhood in a very small apartment with one window that faces a wall. It's dark and cramped and he stores cooking tools all over the place.

In normal times, he doesn't like to cook on his days off. So unless she goes to his restaurant she never eats what he makes. While she's there with him, he's decided to cook for her every

day. Gorgeous, interesting, delicious things that [you can read about here](#). And see pictures of, too.

And I realized that their life, like mine now, is structured by food. By the basic building blocks of life that keep us alive and help us stave off disease. By the same nutritional components that I studied in college (BS in Community Health, 1971), and in graduate school (MS in Public Health, 1972) and that have stood upon my shoulders, whispering tips for decades. During many of which I paid no attention.

There were other times, when food was really important, particularly during my first marriage, where we bought all the kitchen accoutrements of our generation and tried making fancy things together--like paella and fondue and crepes.

Speaking of the day we made crepes, that was the day we invited his grandmother and great aunt to come over and partake. It was a hot day, and I had no idea that you had to put your mixing bowl and beaters--and even the little carton of whipping cream--in the the refrigerator for a while before beating.

And I beat and beat and beat and basically made very soft butter. And Tim's grandmother said, "Oh, honey, that's what happens when you get nervous and you want to make everything perfect for guests--you make 'company cream.'" I got the joke right away. But few people who I've told that story to over the last 45 years ever seemed to.

But that was before we were in dystopia.

Bonnie McGrath

Visit my blog: [www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/](http://www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/)



# 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.

## Mondays with Mike:

by [mknezo2014](#) | Mar 16, 2020

### Looking to the past for strength.



When I was a teenager, I'm guessing around 15—which would've made it 1972—I was watching TV with my dad. He'd just come home from a company picnic/softball game. And he was buzzed. This was a rarity. In fact, it's the only time I remember seeing him tipsy. I don't remember if I saw that as an opportunity or what. But somehow, for the first and only time in my life, he talked to me about his time in the army during WWII. I asked questions, and he answered.

He was stationed outside Paris. His title, I would learn from the discharge papers I found only a few months ago, was pharmacist assistant. He was a medic of sorts. He also did a lot of driving. He transported wounded soldiers between facilities. And he transported remains. And then... there were no more questions. Clearly, he'd seen some stuff he'd rather not talk

about. And, though I can't know but I'm pretty sure, he had a kind of survivor's guilt. Whatever he'd sacrificed and endured, it was nothing compared to those who didn't come back. It was nothing compared to



That's my dad Mike on the left. Brother George Knezovich center and Dave Knezovich on the right. Steve Knezovich, not pictured, served in the Navy.

one of his own brother's experience, who did come home but not as the same man my dad knew growing up.

Somewhere along my youth I happened upon some of my mother's photographs. And that's when I first laid eyes on her first husband. He was tall and blond and handsome. He was an Okie. He was my big sister's biological father.

My mom was teaching Marines' kids at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina during the war when the beau of a girlfriend of hers introduced my mom, Esther Latini, to his friend, Belden Anderson. From what I can tell, he swept her off her feet, they married, and he spirited Esther to the glamorous location of Bakersfield, California. I have a hazy memory of asking my mom who this guy in one photograph was. I don't remember how old I was. I just remember it

happened. I asked questions. And I learned that when my sister was six months old, Belden, who worked at an oil refinery, was burned badly over 80 percent of his body as the result of an explosion. I also learned that he lived for nearly three weeks, in agony, more than once begging my mom to end it for him.



That's young Esther Knezovich, nee Latini.

My father was born to immigrants from Serbia. They hadn't been here 10 years before the Great Depression hit. My mother was born to immigrants from Italy. Ditto. My paternal grandmother had four sons, and at one time they were all serving during WWII. My maternal grandfather worked in a coal mine, survived that work and the violence that flowed from the coal miners' unionizing. And he had black lung.

And then there's our friend's father Joe, an African American man who has a voice that, well, makes you stop and listen. His father grew up in an Alabama town where he, too, worked in a coal mine. The same kind of mine that employed "contract workers" from the county. Back then, the county leased out prisoners to mining companies. Slavery did not end with the Emancipation Proclamation. Joe went on to serve in the war, become a chemist, and helped raise three accomplished women.

So you know, they make me feel like we can get through this. Not without pain. Not without casualties. And I will remain forever angry that there could have been less of both if we'd had any decent leadership.

To that point, my real worry is, will we learn anything? Because I know, I *know* that Joe, my mom, and my dad did. They understood something about the common good. That if you're better, I'm better.

Somewhere in my lifetime, we lost that. I hope we manage to get it back. We owe it to Joe and Esther and Mike.



**Steven Cook, Owner- partner Sheldrick Holmes (not shown)**

You've been asking and we listened! We're serving a dinner for one as well as our dinner for two. Grail Meal for One is priced at \$18.75 which includes a grilled chicken, brown rice, and garden vegetable bowl, tomato soup, and a vegan and gluten free blueberry tart. Try it tonight if you're looking for something new!

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**Scott Perin, Owner/ Operator**

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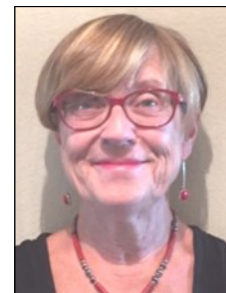
## Celestial Bodies, Jokha Alharthi (Sandstone Press 2018)

Ancient traditions and modern ambitions coexist but not always agreeably in **Celestial Bodies**, the first novel translated from Arabic to win the Man Booker Prize, and the first written by an Arabic woman translated into English. It takes place in Oman, a small oil-rich country that gave women the vote in the 21st-century and outlawed slavery in 1970. The novel moves smoothly back-and-forth among three generations of a merchant family, their spouses, their lovers, their neighbors and their slaves—sometimes often in the course of a single page or even a single paragraph. It is about the power, the violence, the suffering, and the burdens patriarchy imposes on the older men, whose prestige disguises their loathsome livelihoods in gun-dealing and slave-trading. And it is about the angst and uncertainty of the younger men, among them, Abdallah, the narrator—a real estate developer whose wife despises him, and like so many other young men in his world, has a disapproving father and no way to deal with modernity. But mostly it is about the women, those **Celestial bodies**, single, contiguous, and tightly bound, that sometimes circle their husbands and fathers and abusers and teachers and lovers—and sometimes exist in orbits of their own. Three sisters: Mayya, Asma, and Khawla, grow up in the 1980's but are schooled in the ways of the Prophet. They are married, at a time when

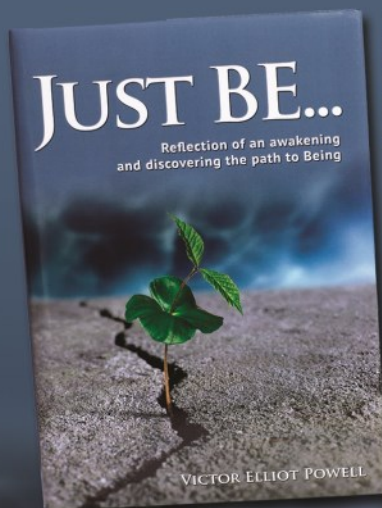
Oman is catapulted into the modern world, with divergent ambitions and results. Along with their grandmother; their mother; Zarifa, the slave who raised Abdallah after his mother mysteriously disappeared, their words and deeds, their inaction and their silence, their interior thoughts and dreams, instruct us in what was, is, and possibly will be for the women in this galaxy. The customs these twentieth century brides (and their mothers before them) face date from the time of Mohammed. When the eldest marries, the youngest quotes the wisdom of a bedouin woman who tells the bride "to use plenty of water for washing and pile lots of kohl onto her eyelids, and always to pay attention to what there is to eat and drink." But their married lives and daughters' roles are eventually, dramatically, different. There are jinnis and prophets and seers and prayers in this universe, and space for the reader to break free from our own planet's gravity and enter its orbit. You'll be amazed and enlightened.

Lorraine Schmall

Dearborn Park  
April, 2020



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Susan Bass Marcus writes and illustrates fiction, essays, and reviews. Her Dragonwolder fantasy novels, *Malevir: Dragons Return* and *Where Dragons Follow*, offer a world of dragon clans, an enigmatic menace the Malevir, sprites, goblins, questing humans, and magical giants. Her musings appear weekly on her blog, "About Susan Marcus," <https://susanbassmarcus.net>. Both paperbacks are available at Sandmeyer's Bookstore.

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## Writing is more important than ever.

[CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT THE AWM](#)

Dear AWM Supporters, Members, and Followers:

As we all work through these trying times, we hope you are safe and healthy. While our museum space will remain closed for the foreseeable future, we are creating new ways to connect with you, with students and teachers, and with new people who have not had a chance to visit the museum yet.

The **American Writers Museum** is a testament to the power of words. The historic writers who line our walls and the beginners who compose their first works in our halls have this in common: They are trying to make sense of a world that seems to make less sense every day. And now it is our turn.

We hope we can be a support for you in these difficult times, and we hope to bring you moments of clarity, joy, and fun when you need it. It has always been our goal—and absolute pleasure—to create a space where literature lovers can meet in person, and now we see it as our duty to join together at a distance and keep celebrating the writers and the works that inspire us and give us hope.

Thank you for being part of the American Writers Museum. We are honored that you choose to visit the museum, follow us online, and participate in our programs. To be sure, we wouldn't be here without you.

You can help us continue this work by making a contribution today, or purchasing a membership for yourself or as a gift. All memberships bought now will automatically be extended from when we reopen.

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## Writing Out Loud

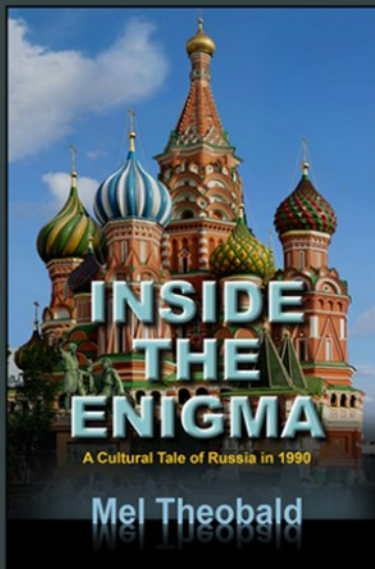
what a blind teacher learned from leading a memoir class for seniors

**Beth Finke**

## Inside the Enigma

**A Cultural Tale of Russia in 1990**

by Mel Theobald



*"Inside the Enigma sweeps you along like the very best fiction, all the more captivating because it really happened. An ordinary guy becomes caught up in high-level wheeling and dealing during a critical moment in international relations. Along the way he discovers hidden art treasures, gets to know the passionate men and women who create them – and recaptures meaning and purpose in his own life. With those four great themes and an inexhaustible wealth of twists and turns, this book will enthrall you from the moment you enter its unique world."*

For complete details, please go to:  
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## Safe & Sound Blog

by Beth Finke

<http://Bethfinke.com/blog>



### [And Speaking of Wanda...](#) March 27, 2020

#### The Issue is Toilet Tissue

by Wanda Bridgeforth

*Why the run on toilet paper? Is it our solution to be clean after using the bathroom facilities? Is it because we feel there is no substitute for this product?*

*Today's water saving commodes clog up on all toilet tissue substitutes, even the beloved Kleenex. Bathrooms of today are mostly cubby holes -saving toilets that accept only toilet tissue, I hark back to the days of the pull-chain toilet.*

*Back in the pre-depression and during the depression days the substitute for toilet tissue was newspaper, All of the bathrooms were large and their floors were covered with newspaper. I remember lingering in the bathroom reading the newspaper that covered the floor! We crumpled the newspaper and wet it under the facebowl faucet, it was as soft as today's tissue. I wonder now if any ink print was left on the wiped area?*

*PS: If the tissue issue becomes acute and the newspaper sales increase? Josephine et-al Man the snakes and plungers.*

#### Benefits of Memoir Classes: Teaching Online

Over the 15-plus years I've been leading memoir classes in Chicago many many people have suggested I offer an online course as well. "You'd get people from all over the country," they say. "You could charge a lot, and you wouldn't even have to leave home." Not leave home? Being *with* my writers is what I love most about teaching memoir. Hearing Wanda's classmates scramble to find her a seat when she arrives; sensing the drama of passing a bag of Scrabble tiles around to determine who picks "Z" out of the bag (usually "A" goes first, but sometimes I go backwards!); Bindy's delight to hear an assignment that inspires a limerick; Janie reading an essay out loud for a fellow writer whose low vision prevents them from doing so on their own; the collective gasp when Bruce recites a particularly poignant phrase; hearing updates on our new Grail Café from writers who stopped there before coming to the class I lead in the neighborhood; taking in the oos and ahs whenever Michael brings a show and tell to pass around as he reads his latest essay.

"Being right there to sense writers reading their stories in their own voices, watching how trust grows in a group of people who share life stories...to me that's the most important part of what I do," I tell the online pushers. "Eavesdropping before and after class tells me a lot, too, and you just can't eavesdrop like that online." I thank the friends for the online class idea. "But it just won't work for me."

Those online pushers are a determined bunch.

They power on, describe a site or program or app or whatever it is you call it where you can see everyone's face on the screen. "You can see everyone there and watch their reactions right from home," they reason.

"But I can't see!" I remind them. That's usually where The conversation ends.

Writers join the memoir-writing classes I lead for all sorts of reasons. Some want to hone their writing skills, some hope it will improve their memory, others want to collect their essays as a gift to their relatives. Some like the weekly deadline, some hope to get their essays published, others count on sharing time every week with a group who likes to hear —and share — their life stories. This [post written by Dr. Jeremy Nobel](#) in the *Harvard Health Blog* presents scientific data supporting a benefit many writers don't anticipate when they first sign up: the idea that writing and sharing stories about your life can be "even lifesaving in a world where loneliness — and the ill health it can lead to — has become an epidemic." From his blog:

Picking up a pen can be a powerful intervention against loneliness. I am a strong believer in writing as a way for people who are feeling lonely and isolated to define, shape, and exchange their personal stories. Expressive writing, especially when shared, helps foster social connections. It can reduce the burden of loneliness among the many groups who are most at risk, including older adults, caregivers, those with major illnesses, those with disabilities, veterans, young adults, minority communities of all sorts, and immigrants and refugees.

Dr. Nobel did not specify in his blog whether the sharing had to be done in person to fight loneliness, or if sharing online would work just as well.

When it was determined that the Thursday afternoon [Village Chicago](#) class would not be meeting in person for their fifth and sixth classes of this session, I decided to try an experiment: send an email with their prompt, assure them I'd still edit essays for anyone who wanted to send their assignments my way, then encourage them to "reply to all" and email their completed essays (whether edited by me or not, that didn't matter) to their fellow writers to read at their leisure. I would email my comments to every writer who sent an essay, and Comments from their classmates would come to them via email, too rather than in person. I made it clear that students were not *required* to read the essays they received via email, but I encouraged them to do so and respond to help us keep in touch while classes were cancelled. Results?

- During week one, 20% of the writers sent essays to their fellow writers via email, and 6.66% of writers emailed their classmates with a comment.
- During week two, our final class of this six-week session, 6.666% of the writers sent essays to their fellow writers via email, and 0% emailed that classmate with a comment.

I know, I know. This is just a personal non-evidence-based very short experiment, and maybe it'd work if I used one of those apps, but really, I'm too busy washing my hands and spraying the knobs on the radio to learn how to download one right now. So I'm sticking to my guns. If I'm the one teaching, it's gotta be in person.

Or so I thought.

I've mentioned Wanda Bridgeforth, our 98-year-old memoir matriarch, in this post and want you blog readers to know she is doing well. "I am not really affected," she told me during one of our phone calls these past few weeks. "I stay home most of the time anyway!"

(Continued on page 13)

## Printers Row Park Earth Day

Mark you calendars, Friends of Printers Row Park is hosting a cleanup on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m.—noon. People interested in helping with the effort are encouraged to sign up by April 3 to assure that an adequate amount of tools and equipment are made available. To sign up, please click here. [https://  
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## The Lowdown Lockdown Blues: Chicago Musicians' Quest to Be Heard

March 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm by [Robert Rodi](#)

The best musicians are no strangers to improvisation, but they've had to improvise on a dime. Six days ago, [we reported](#) on how Chicago's music community had responded to the halt in live performances brought about by closing venues and the rise of "social distancing." Now we've shifted into the even more restrictive era of "sheltering in place," as Governor Pritzker instituted a statewide lockdown beginning Saturday night, with the aim of further slowing the spread of the coronavirus.

Jeannie Tanner was one of the musicians we spoke to earlier. She and her fellow singer Abigail Riccards were planning their first livestream show for Wednesday on Facebook Live. That show went so well that they planned to make it a regular Wednesday night virtual gig, dubbed "Desperate Measures Music Series."

Then the lockdown was announced on Friday. It was no longer possible for Tanner and Riccards—not to mention their IT coordinator and bassist Stacy McMichael—to travel to Tanner's home for the collaboration. It's here that the spirit of improvisation comes in. The women had already planned to meet on Friday night "to talk about some tech angles for this coming week, and multi-platform streaming that we're still working on," Tanner says. "Abigail got here first, and said, 'Okay, I've got a great idea: what are you doing tonight?' And I said, 'Let me check my calendar.'" She laughs—the joke being any musician having to check her calendar, these days.

### Jeannie Tanner, Abigail Riccards

With less than three hours to prepare, Tanner and Riccards put together a second, impromptu "Desperate Measures" on Friday night, then spent Saturday "guerilla recording," in Tanner's phrase, several more episodes to run on upcoming Wednesdays. It's livestreaming without the "live"—but it will keep the artists in the public eye and, not insignificantly, earning. "We're hoping to do a format where sometimes it can be request-based," Tanner says, "and we can splice together people's requests and

hashtag them, and then other ones will be full concert episodes. It's actually kind of fun to experiment with. We have the chance to reach a vastly different audience and just play with some things."

Other ensembles haven't yet found the solution to their own curtailed livestream plans. The wildly charismatic indie pop-rock band August Hotel has enjoyed a run of successful appearances, most recently selling out Beat Kitchen on February 7. They were looking forward to a March 27 gig at Subterranean, which would benefit The Trevor Project. When that date was canceled, the band decided to replace it with a livestream show on the same night, for the same cause.

But over subsequent days, as the crisis intensified, the members began to re-strategize even that. "We thought, okay, 'If it looks like it'll be too unsafe to do the full band, too risky, we can at least do two of us, because we've been isolated, we're okay,'" says vocalist and guitarist Ryan Lammers. "But now with shelter-in-place, even that is pushing it."

Updates on the event's status will be posted on the August Hotel [Facebook page](#). Click here for the rest of the story: <https://music.newcity.com/2020/03/21/the-lowdown-lockdown-blues-chicago-musicians-quest-to-be-heard/>

## In *Chicago Cooks: 45 Perfect Recipes for the Passionate Palate*, the basics are covered for any kind of meal.

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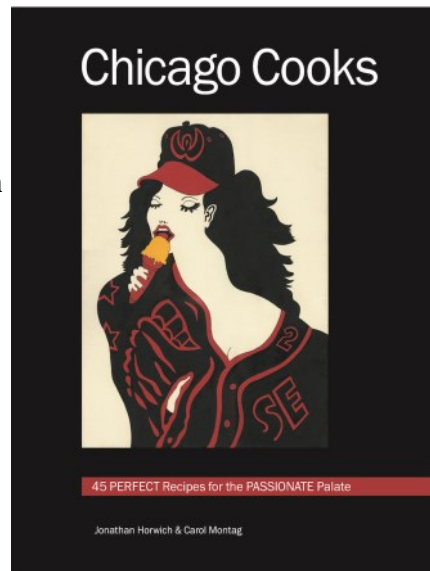
We hope you will trust us and try these recipes so that you can experience food made with care and passion, food that stimulates your palate, and inspires you to share each recipe with those you love.

The two authors are longtime residents of Chicago.

Returning to Chicago after 40 years in California as a jazz producer and recording engineer, **Jonathan Horwich** has continued pursuing his passion for music and high quality sound. **Carol Montag** grew up in St. Louis, MO and came to Chicago to attend The University of Chicago and never left. She has been an educator for 52 years as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and educational coach.

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(Continued from page 9, Beth and Wanda)

For the past three years, Wanda has been participating in the University of Chicago Medical Center's Comprehensive Care, Community, and Culture Program and receives a personal phone call every three months to ask about her health and the quality of care she has been receiving. "But this past week it was different," she told me over the weekend, marveling at how the doctor who called this time managed to be on the phone with **all** the study participants at once. "He could answer all our questions about the coronavirus and all that, they had 15 of us all on the phone line at once!"

I had questions. Could everyone on the phone actually hear each other? Wasn't it scratchy? Was everyone polite? Didn't people interrupt each other? "Oh, no, it was great! All very clear," she assured me. "So listen, okay with you if I make some phone calls Monday morning, you know, to see how that works and if we can set something like this up for our class?"

Of course I said yes!

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



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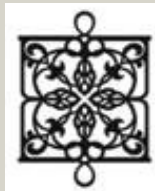
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Wednesday, March 25, 2020

## [The Hilton Chicago at 720 S. Michigan Shuts Down on Friday 3/27/20](#)

Yesterday we spoke about the city tapping hotels to house the sick. Today it looks like one of the Sloop's biggest hotels is shutting down for now ([via Chicago Tribune](#)):

The artsy 21c Museum Hotel made its River North debut in February. A little over a month later, the 297-room property has gone dark.

One of the largest hotels in the city will soon follow suit. The 1,544-room Hilton Chicago at 720 S. Michigan Avenue is notifying guests that it will suspend operations as of Friday, Hilton spokeswoman Laura Ford said.

Like a growing number of hotels, the properties will be closed indefinitely as the new coronavirus continues to cripple the industry and spark massive job losses and cut-backs that are affecting employees in every department, from housekeeping to the c-suite.

What started a week ago with a couple of luxury properties downtown has turned into a wave of hotel closures across the city. Ace, Loews, Virgin, The Hoxton, Omni, Four Seasons, Chicago Athletic Association, Park Hyatt, The Peninsula, Hotel Zachary — the list of shuttered addresses keeps getting longer, and experts predict there's more to come.

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## South Loop Memory Café

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Nov 14	Cooking Demonstration
Dec 12	Holiday Music Program

\*South Loop Farmers Market dates—plan to stay a while after the meeting and shop!





## Retired in Chicago

### The return of the phone call

By **Marianne Goss**, March 2, 2020

The coronavirus isn't deadly in every way. It's brought back to life two old-fashioned means of communication: phone calling and letter writing.

It's been nearly 13 years since Nielsen announced the phone call's adieu in the United States. In autumn 2007 the number of texts sent on cellphones topped the number of phone calls. Today three-quarters of American households no longer have landline phones, and cellphones convey five times more text messages than voice calls.

Actual voice calls are reserved mostly for our mothers and for emergencies. Phone chats with my friends have been rare for years.

It was therefore striking that last Friday I had seven long phone conversations with friends as we coped with isolation.

Texting or email could have confirmed that the other person was all right. Phoning served an additional purpose: to hear the voice of an intimate during this weeks-long, maybe months-long, seclusion; to have thoughtful communication, not just an answer to "Are you okay?" Email and texting don't meet the need for intimacy and immediacy. An email may be answered hours later or not at all. A text message is likely to be hasty and impersonal. Neither gives the comfort of hearing an actual, familiar voice.

A telephone call can be as intimate and long as the two or more of you desire. Under the present circumstances, it's nearly guaranteed that a ringing phone will be answered. During this episode even my college-age nieces, who are major texters like the rest of their generation, are preferring to talk to their friends by voice chats. Admittedly, it's with the addition of video via FaceTime, but they consider FaceTime like a phone call plus. "It's the same as the phone except with a video stream so you can see each other," Alex said.

They've discovered the limitations of texting.

"It's way easier to talk to people over FaceTime than by text if you are trying to catch up and have an extended conversation," Ashley said.

They've also phoned — audio only — their grandmother in an assisted living residence. Frequent calls from her family members are a lifeline for my mother, who can't have visitors and doesn't have a cellphone or a computer. Concern about elderly people in senior residences motivated people to revive another old-fashioned style of

communicating: a note or a card in a stamped envelope delivered by the US Post Office.

Like phone calls, greeting cards and handwritten letters on stationery were replaced by electronic messages years ago. But last week *USA Today* [reported](#) about people who are initiating or volunteering for projects to make cards for elderly residents of nursing homes and retirement facilities who are confined to their rooms, seeing only the staff who deliver their meals and medicine. In case volunteers worry about transmitting the coronavirus on stationery, the story said that such transmission is "extremely unlikely."

When we're finally released from isolation, it's likely that these old-fashioned modes will fade again. But I doubt that they'll entirely disappear, especially phone calls. There will always be times when we are separated from loved ones, by miles if not by a virus, and want to hear their voices and really talk with them.

\*\*\*\*\*

ANTI-TRUMP QUOTATIONS: 106TH IN AN ONGOING SERIES  
 "I'm finding it hard to control my anger with Donald Trump's response to this crisis. I have doctors and nurses and first responders begging for masks, equipment, and more tests. ... Donald Trump promised to deliver for all the states weeks ago and so far has done very little. This is the time for serious people, not the carnival barkers that are tweeting from the cheap seats. All I can say is get to work or get out of the way."

— Illinois Gov. J. B. Pritzker

<http://www.chicagonow.com/retired-in-chicago/>

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March 27, 2020

### Playing The Hero

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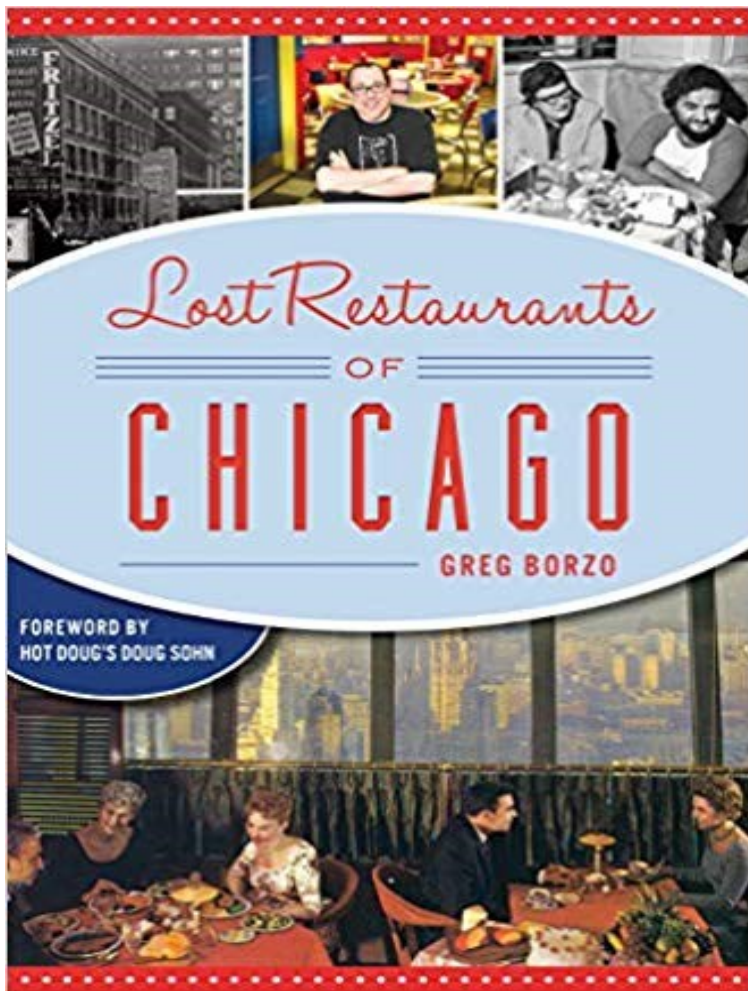
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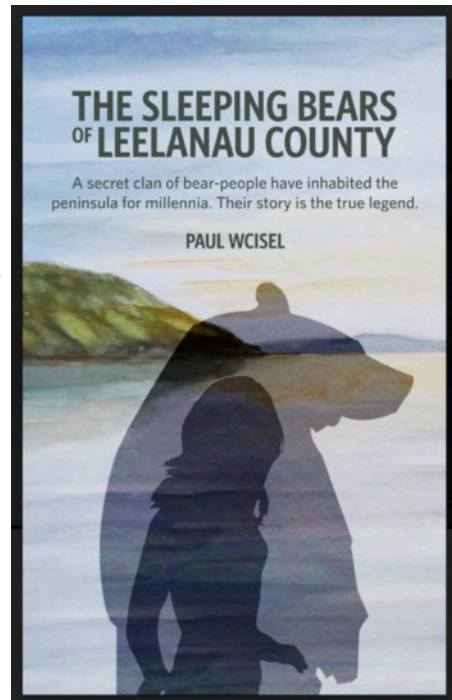


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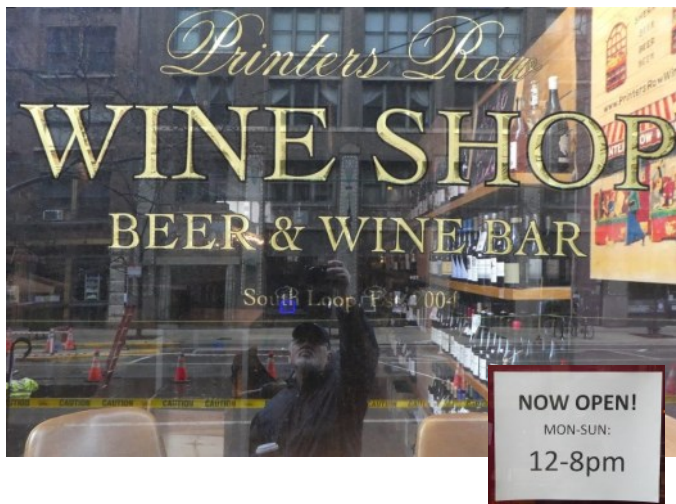
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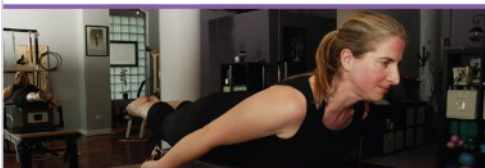
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## Construction Of Chicago's New Neighborhood 'The 78' Pushes Through Pandemic

That neighborhood is slowly emerging on a 62-acre former railroad yard adjacent to the Chicago River, sandwiched between the South Loop and Chinatown.

Published on Mar 24, 2020 8:20AM CDT [South Loop Primary category in which blog post is published](#)  
[John Owens @john\\_p\\_owens](#)

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**SOUTH LOOP** — The coronavirus outbreak has shut down most city activity, from schools to businesses to entertainment and cultural institutions.

But work continues on the infrastructure for one of city's most ambitious real estate development projects in recent history: "The 78," the \$7 billion dollar community being touted as Chicago's 78th neighborhood. That neighborhood is slowly emerging on a 62-acre former railroad yard adjacent to the Chicago River, sandwiched between the South Loop and Chinatown.

City-contracted workers this month have reached a milestone of sorts, with the installation of key utilities for the Wells-Wentworth Connector, the main transportation network connecting "The 78" with the South Loop to the north and Chinatown to the south. Those utilities include traffic signal technology, water, sewers and electricity.

Chicago Department of Transportation officials say that work is not slated to be postponed any time in the near future, despite other city-related shutdowns to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"The contractors working on 'The 78' are telling us they are all planning to continue working," said Chicago Dept. of Transportation spokesman Mike Claffey, who said that most other CDOT-related construction and maintenance projects are also not being delayed.

"This is a good time to be working now if you are on the street, because there's much less traffic and congestion, since everyone's home," Claffey said.

Claffey said that contractors are now required by CDOT to follow all safety protocols with regards to the coronavirus outbreak, including frequent hand washing and maintaining social distance of at least six feet.

Contractors say they are on schedule with their initial plan to complete the Wells-Wentworth Connector by late 2021. That involves the extension of Wells Street from Roosevelt Road



A sole worker walks through "The 78" construction site on March 13, 2020.

to 17th Street, which will then connect via an "S" curve to Wentworth Avenue at 18th Street. The road will include raised bike lanes on either side of the two-lane street, along with two raised mid-block crossings.

A rendering of Wells Street in "The 78", showing the raised bike lanes that flank the two lane roadway. Chicago Dept. of Transportation

As part of the construction, workers will have to demolish and relocate an existing railroad overpass used by Metra. The demolition of the overpass is still scheduled to take place in late spring, dependent on approvals by the five different railroad entities that have claims to the tracks.

Crews are now constructing a connector sewer system under the intersection of what will be 15th and Wells streets, which will link with the Deep Tunnel.

"This will be a central artery in 'The 78' for sewer and storm water," said Sonny Jaramilla, the project manager for WSP, the construction management consultant working for CDOT.

Sonny Jaramilla, the construction manager for the Wells-Wentworth Connector project, points at a mock-up of the sidewalk and raised bike lane which will flank the extension of Wells Street in the new "78" neighborhood. Photo taken on March 13, 2020. John Owens/Block Club Chicago

Paving for the extension of Wells Street is still slated to start this summer, Claffey said. A new CTA Red Line stop at 15th Street is also slated to be part of the infrastructure improvements in the development.

"You've got all modes of transportation going on here, from the bike lanes to the roadway to Metra, the freight trains, the CTA, the waterway," Jaramilla said. "There's so many different features and so many different priorities for different groups. The biggest challenge will be communication and coordinating."

Sonny Jaramilla (left), the construction manager for the Wells-Wentworth Connector project, oversees the construction of a sewer junction chamber at "The 78" construction site. It will connect with an outlet of the Deep Tunnel. Photo taken on March 13, 2020. John Owens/Block Club Chicago

The project is primarily being funded by \$700 million in TIF subsidies from city. But the developer, Related Midwest, is helping to defray costs for the installation of the utilities and construction of a new segment of 15th Street from Wells to Clark. Related Midwest will also finance a Riverwalk buildout on the Chicago River, which is located on the western boundary of the new neighborhood. (Continued on page 20)

<https://blockclubchicago.org/>

By now we've settled into our new offices at home and are adjusting to seeing our coworkers via Zoom calls. While this

is reality for most of us, VOA Illinois has staff on the front lines making sure the individuals, families, and communities that call VOA Illinois home are safe, healthy, and carrying on as normal as possible.

For this #MissionMoment we wanted to highlight the work of our staff over the past 10 days:

- Staff are running to grocery stores at all hours when items have been restocked
- Staff are stopping by local schools to pick up bagged lunches for the residents
- Our foster care team is doing virtual at home visits. This has allowed them to stay in contact with the foster parents and see what art projects, activities, and puzzles the kids are doing.
- The staff at our Hope Manor properties are walking through and knocking on every door everyday to check in with each resident
- When donations of food or cleaning products are dropped off our staff is making sure they get to the residents that day.

For the people we serve, many struggle in the best of times and unfortunately, struggle more in the worst of times. Our staff are making sure that even with all this uncertainty our clients are still healthy and safe. We're so proud of our staff and are grateful to have them in the VOA Illinois family.

### Every Gift Matters

For more #MissionMoment stories check our our [website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#). #TheVOAWay

## #MissionMoment



### Working with a designer can save you money!

Here are a few examples:

- Designers receive discounts on many industry furnishings and can pass some of those savings on to you. These savings really add up when purchasing higher end products, furnishing large spaces or remodeling kitchens and bathrooms.

- When working with a designer you will receive guidance in space planning including room

layout, scale and placement of furniture, artwork and accessories, which can help you avoid costly mistakes.

- Simple steps, such as painting, accessorizing or even just moving around artwork (e.g., changing groupings and mats / framing) may be all you need to freshen up your space. These kinds of improvements can often be accomplished with minimal time and budget.

- Your designer can help to ensure that your lighting is up to task and that you have the window treatments that provide light control, insulation and fans to even out temperatures.

[Jaqi@jaqigreeninteriors.com](mailto:Jaqi@jaqigreeninteriors.com)

## Nice & Distressed

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## Next phase of Byrne improvements begins March 27 with closure of Jackson Boulevard over Kennedy

*Progress continues this year with several ramp, mainline Kennedy, Ryan improvements*

**CHICAGO** – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that the next major phase of the Jane Byrne Interchange project will begin with the upcoming closure of the Jackson Boulevard bridge over the Kennedy Expressway (Interstate 90/94). The bridge project marks the first of several traffic impacts this construction season that will result in safer, smoother travel through the interchange.

“This coming year will see significant progress with the reconstruction of the Jane Byrne Interchange, and we look forward to the many improvements to come,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “We appreciate the public’s continued patience. We ask that they drop their devices, be on the alert for changes in traffic patterns and give their undivided attention going through this and all other work zones.”

To remove the existing bridge over the expressway, Jackson Boulevard between Halsted Street and Des Plaines Avenue will close Friday, March 27, to all traffic, weather permitting.

A detour will direct vehicular traffic east on Jackson Boulevard, south on Halsted Street, east on Van Buren Street and north on Jefferson Street to reconnect with Jackson Boulevard.

Pedestrians should use the Van Buren Street bridge as an alternate route. Bicyclists will be detoured south on Halsted Street, east on Harrison Street and north on Clinton Street to reconnect with Jackson Boulevard.

The Jackson Boulevard entrance ramp to the outbound Kennedy also will close, with a detour directing traffic north on Halsted Street to enter the expressway via Madison Street. The inbound Kennedy exit ramp to Jackson Boulevard will close as well, with motorists directed to exit at Monroe Street and access Jackson Boulevard via Des Plaines Avenue.

The new Jackson Boulevard bridge is expected to open in 2022. The structure will have two lanes and a dedicated bike lane, as well as sidewalks on both sides, enhancing connections and improving safety for all transportation users in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Other significant impacts at the Jane Byrne this year include:

- The outbound Ida B. Wells Drive ramp to the outbound Kennedy was closed this winter and reopens by the end of this year.
- The inbound Eisenhower Expressway (Interstate 290) ramp to the outbound Kennedy will close later this spring and reopen in late 2020. A special detour will utilize the outbound Dan Ryan Expressway (Interstate 90/94) to connect to the Kennedy via the Taylor Street interchange.

- Adams Street over the Kennedy will be closed this summer, the last of the 11 local street bridges at the interchange to be replaced. It reopens in 2022 with Jackson Boulevard.
- Improvements will begin later in 2020 on the mainline lanes of the Kennedy and Dan Ryan through the interchange, which include the construction of new collector-distributor ramps that will relocate the left-hand entrance ramps at Jackson and Adams. Three lanes will remain open in both directions, but traffic will be shifted.

Additional details, schedules and impacts to traffic will be shared in advance, closer to the individual project start dates.

The overall reconstruction project at the Jane Byrne Interchange will improve safety and traffic flow for the more than 400,000 motorists who use it each day, while also enhancing mobility for bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users in the surrounding neighborhoods. For more information and to view a live camera feed of the work zone, visit [www.circleinterchange.org](http://www.circleinterchange.org).

Recently, IDOT unveiled a new mobile-friendly website that features a detailed project timeline with an interactive map, photo galleries and the ability to submit questions and comments to the project team via a “Contact Us” link. For more information, visit [www.janebyrneinterchange.org](http://www.janebyrneinterchange.org).

The improved Jane Byrne Interchange will be complete in 2022.

(Block Club Chicago article “Construction on the New 78”  
Continued from page 18)

Last month, the developer also announced it was donating land on the site for an “innovation center” built by the University of Illinois Systems Discovery Partners Institute.

“Within the next year, you’ll see some real tangible things,” Jaramilla said.

[https://blockclubchicago.org/2020/03/24/construction-of-chicagos-new-neighborhood-the-78-pushes-through-pandemic/?mc\\_cid=770694fab&mc\\_eid=e0677f46e4](https://blockclubchicago.org/2020/03/24/construction-of-chicagos-new-neighborhood-the-78-pushes-through-pandemic/?mc_cid=770694fab&mc_eid=e0677f46e4)

*[Subscribe to Block Club Chicago](#). Every dime we make funds reporting from Chicago’s neighborhoods.*

## 6 Immigrant Groups Protecting Vulnerable From Coronavirus — Here’s How You Can Help

As COVID-19 continues to spread, immigrant groups across the city are in need of help and donations.

Click here

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2020/03/27/6-immigrant-groups-protecting-vulnerable-from-coronavirus-heres-how-you-can-help/>



How to meet for Breakfast during the Covid 19 Pandemic?

Facetime; Skype, Zoom . .

## GOT GAS?

New gas lines replacing pipes that are, oh . . about 100 years old.

On Dearborn Street.



## Parking Space \$225/m

One parking space P141 for rent is located in the lower floor of the basement garage of 801 S Plymouth Court. Asking for \$225/ month on a yearly basis, available immediately.

The garage is heated, which includes car wash stall, air hose and video security.

If interested, please contact Vinay:

217-377-7987 through text.

## THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

We welcome letters to the editor.

This publication is sponsored by the South Loop Referral Group, a professional and business networking group. It is our mission to provide the Printers Row area with current news and to promote local businesses and organizations. This publication will be distributed through email to individuals who wish to receive it. If you have any questions or would like to contribute information, please email us :

[thedeardownexpress@gmail.com](mailto:thedeardownexpress@gmail.com)

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\* Your car will thank you....

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Contact Georgeanne (owner) for more information.

Call or text 312.231.6145



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Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 am - 6 pm

Tues: 12 pm - 8 pm

Sat: 9 am - 2 pm

(312) 588-1104

730 S. Dearborn St. Chicago, IL 60605

[www.asapwellnesscenter.com](http://www.asapwellnesscenter.com)

Next CAPS Meeting TBA6:30pm at  
525 S. State St.  
(Every 2nd Wednesday)



# Police Blotter

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

### BEAT 123

Mon, 16 Mar 2020 02:25 1100 S State St  
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No Weapon CTA Train

Fri, 06 Mar 2020 08:25 800 S Wabash ve  
AUTO THEFT Parking Garage.(Non Resid)

Tue, 17 Mar 2020 19:47 0 E Roosevelt Rd  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT HANDGUNSidewalk

Tue, 10 Mar 2020 21:53 0 E Harrsion St  
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No Weapon Sidewalk

Tue, 17 Mar 2020 20:09 1000 S Delano Ct  
AUTO THEFT Street

Sat, 21 Mar 2020 15:10 600 S State St  
STRONG ARM ROBBERY - NO WEAPON CTA Train

### BEAT 131

Tue, 10 Mar 2020 21:15 1500 S Wabash Ave  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT KNIFE CHA Hallway

Wed, 18 Mar 2020 03:00 1800 S Wabash Ave  
CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT HANDGUN Apartment

### BEAT 132

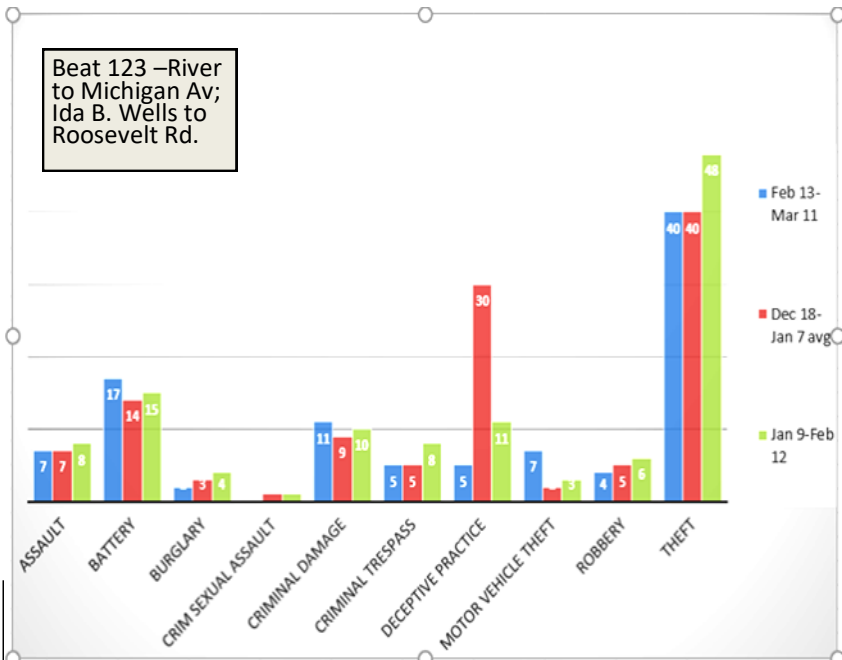
Fri, 13 Mar 2020 19:35 1900 S Indiana Ave  
ARMED ROBBERY - HANDGUN Sidewalk

Thu, 12 Mar 2020 10:30 2100 S Prairie Ave  
AUTO THEFT Street

Sat, 07 Mar 2020 23:45 1400 S Indiana Ave  
ARMED ROBBERY - HANDGUN Sidewalk

Mon, 16 Mar 2020 12:00 1200 S Prairie Ave  
AUTO THEFT Garage (Non Residential)

Sun, 22 Mar 2020 02:18 100 E 21<sup>st</sup> St  
BURGLARY Residence



CPD has released all 22 of its **District 2020 Strategic Plans** city-wide. The details of the plans will be made available to the public on the [www.chicagopolice.org](http://www.chicagopolice.org) website soon. With the community's help, the 001st District has narrowed down its Top 3 Crime Reduction Priorities which include:

Priority #1 Reduce Incidents of Robbery. Priority #2 Disturbances along the "Roosevelt Corridor" between Michigan Ave. and Des Plaines Ave. Priorities #3 Disturbances, Drug Selling and Usage in and near Printer's Row Park.

Congratulations 001st District Community Members!  
Thanks for your hard work and dedication!

<https://home.chicagopolice.org/office-of-community-policing/district-strategic-plans/>

We focus on crime that is violent or may affect your physical safety. If you look at the graph on top of this column, you will see that the highest incidence of crime is theft, usually on the street or in restaurants (like cell phones stolen from tables). The crime shown on this page is based on Beat 123 131 and 132.

## Real Estate Transactions

\$275,000  
41 E 8<sup>TH</sup> ST 4E  
1/14/20

\$317,000  
1250 S MICHIGAN AVE 1505  
2/4/20

\$560,000  
233 E 13<sup>TH</sup> ST 2201  
2/3/20

\$245,500  
600 S DEARBORN ST 1804  
1/30/20

\$202,000  
40 E 9<sup>TH</sup> ST 617  
1/29/20

\$354,000  
1345 S WABASH AVE 1601  
1/24/20

\$267,500  
1322 S PRAIRIE ST 1109  
1/24/20

\$667,000  
1455 S INDIANA AVE 304  
1/23/20

\$625,000  
520 S STATE ST 809  
1/22/20

\$288,000  
1341 S WABASH AVE B  
1/21/20

\$637,500  
910 S MICHIGAN AVE 904  
1/17/20

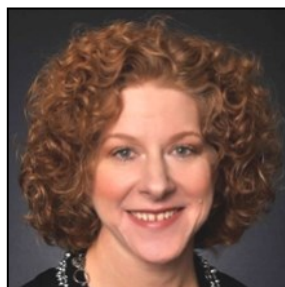
\$224,000  
1440 S MICHIGAN AVE 522  
1/16/19

\$370,000  
100 E 14<sup>TH</sup> ST 903  
1/16/19

Susan Dickman - Koenigrubloff/  
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

773-627-8176

[sdickman@koenigrubloff.com](mailto:sdickman@koenigrubloff.com)



Anne Rosen  
Keller Williams

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Past Issues . . .

Archives at:

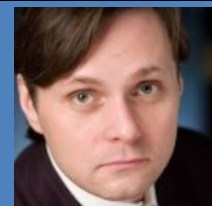
<http://dearbornexpress.net/>



Dearborn Street Realty

Tom Feddor, 312.203.3841

[tomfeddor@gmail.com](mailto:tomfeddor@gmail.com)



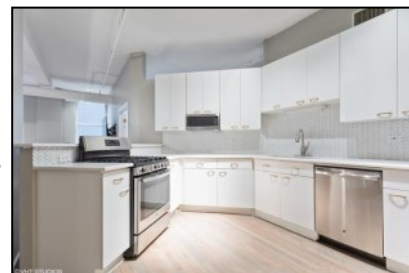


40 E 9<sup>th</sup>, unit 1314  
1 bed/ 1 bath 585 Sq Ft  
\$205,000

Listed by Ryan Newberry LHeureux •  
@properties 847.432.0700

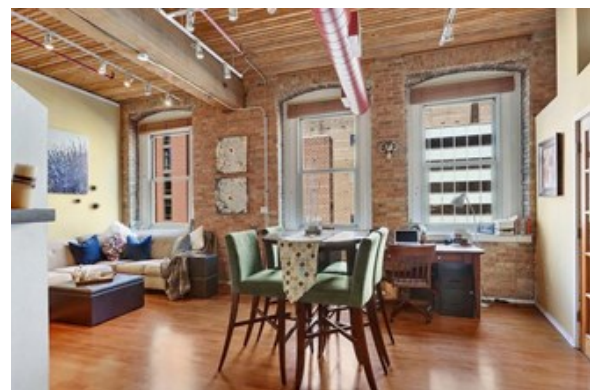
161 W Harrison St #403  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1350 sq ft  
\$299,900

Peter DeFilippis • @properties  
847.910.5551



1133 S State St #703  
3 bed, 2.5 bath, 2000 sq ft  
\$699,500

Mario Greco • Berkshire  
Hathaway HomeServices Chi-  
cago  
773.687.4696

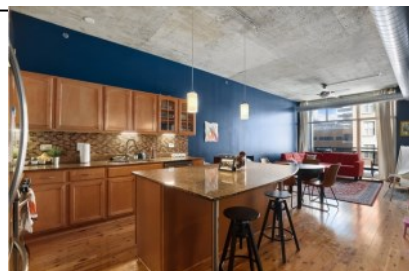


900 S Wabash, #302  
1 bed / 1 bath 1000 Sq Ft  
\$214,900

Listed by Dave Shalabi • RE/MAX Synergy  
708.705.9000

125 E 13<sup>th</sup> St #505  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1300 sq ft  
\$420,000

Stefanie D'Agostino •  
Redfin Corporation  
312.650.7914



1516 S Wabash Ave #304  
2 bed, 2 bath, 1200 sq ft  
\$369,999

Leigh Marcus  
@properties  
773.312.7550



1115 S Plymouth Ct, #126 Duplex  
2 bed/ 2.5 bath 1250 Sq Ft  
\$357,000

Listed by Shane Wulbert • @properties  
773.426.9359

621 S Plymouth Ct #308  
1 bed, 1 bath, 100 sq ft  
\$220,000

Ivan Man •  
Century 21 Realty Assoc.  
773.895.2943



901 S Plymouth Ct #2003  
3 bed/ 2 bath 1500 Sq Ft  
\$385,000

Mark Bazzetta RE-  
MAX Edge  
773.420.8694

