A shot at the vaccine

It seems, if you are of a certain age, the main conversation opener is “have you received your shot yet?” One shot, two shots or not yet. And then comes the story (and everybody has one). How many times they have attempted to line up an appointment. I’ve talked to people who received a shot one block away at the Urgent Care facility on State Street. Many of us were contacted by our hospitals. In the last issue, I talked about traveling to Florida and the risk involved. If you believe, like we do, that you expose your self to possible infection when you mix with people, then the challenge is to avoid people. We drove. We don’t believe that hotels are a risk from a cleanliness point of view. There has been no documented proof of anyone catching Covid from touching a surface. And how do you procure your food? How many times do you think we ate at a fast food restaurant and be the only customers? A pleasant surprise when you eat at 3pm. And yes, locals rather sit in their car in a long line to pick up their food than wear a mask and enter the restaurant. One place we went to in Georgia, a state that has no mask mandate, required no masks inside their store. It was a popular stop because they sold gas, had large, clean rest rooms and sold lots of pre-wrapped goodies like pecan rolls. If you're old enough, think Stucky’s on steroids. Almost all, like 99% of the customers wore masks. The employees did not. Even in Georgia, you must wear a mask at chain restaurants or chain retail stores. Once in Florida, most folks are comfortable not wearing a masks outside. Even Dr. Fauci says that's okay as long as you social distance. Al Hippensteel
Welcome to Jazz Showcase where Jazz lives in Chicago since 1947. Our exclusive 170 seat venue features the best Jazz acts you’ll find anywhere in the Chicago area. Tickets are now available online. Don’t forget to sign up for our e-mail newsletter so you don’t miss out on our upcoming shows!

Dearborn Station
312.360.0234
806 S. Plymouth Court
CHICAGO, 60605
Jazzshowcase.com

The Jazz Showcase is the oldest historic jazz club in Chicago, founded in 1947 by Joe Segal, now owned and operated by Wayne Segal (Joe Segal’s son). The greatest names in Jazz have played here, including but not limited to:


Today, the Jazz showcase continues to be a thriving Jazz club in Chicago, bringing in top international & Chicago homegrown musicians.

Watch NEA Jazz Masters: Tribute to Joe Segal  https://youtu.be/D6m-2JBvrVY

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

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

- Ensuring high-quality, reasonably-sized real estate development as well as infrastructure improvements that respect the unique character of our community
- 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.

South Loop Development Roundup

A reminder: Our Sept. 16 online meeting covered development and planning issues active in the neighborhood. If you weren't able to attend, you can view the entire presentation on YouTube.

The latest on all South Loop projects can always be found at southloopupdate.com

Dennis McClendon
Director of Planning and Development
Opinion

Retired in Chicago

Thoughts as senior residences let up on lockdowns

By Marianne Goss, March 1, 2021

Our 93-year-old mother’s virtual imprisonment in an assisted living apartment for almost a year has to rank among my family’s top stresses of the pandemic.

Would Mom have been better off living with one of us? Didn’t she deserve the same care she gave her own mother at home for 17 years?

But when we moved her and our father into assisted living in August 2019, we couldn’t have known that Dad would die four months later. Or that COVID would lock down the facility less than three months after that.

Mom coped better than I would have predicted. Her do-whats-expected attitude serves her in this situation. I note the irony as well as the sadness: community — the selling point of senior homes, along with medical care — is the very thing missing.

Our parents moved into assisted living on the orders of Mom’s doctor, who said she was too prone to falling and Dad too old to take care of her. It was that or hire a live-in caretaker, which they rejected. We didn’t even discuss their moving in with one of their four kids, since none of us has an extra, accessible bedroom. Besides, Mom and Dad had one another.

Although Dad wasn’t happy with the move, he was persuaded to play pinochle and cornhole, and they took all their meals in the community dining room. After Dad died unexpectedly that December, we were relieved that Mom didn’t hibernate. She went to the community rooms for meals, the rosary, music, and crafts.

Then came the pandemic, confining the new widow to her apartment, no visitors allowed. Isolation protected the building’s residents, none of whom contracted COVID. But still . . .

I wonder whether elderly people would have chosen to sacrifice companionship to prolong lives with only a few years remaining. (But not isolating would have risked others’ lives, a morally unacceptable decision.)

I wonder whether residents could have been allowed indoor, masked visitors, one or two at a time, in a controlled, sanitized environment.

I wonder whether the two social coordinators at Mom’s residence, with no social activities to organize, should have visited each resident regularly to chat. (Their services must have been needed elsewhere.)

I wonder whether there could have been a middle path, like the sit-outside-your-door, in-the-hallway bingo that Mom’s residence organized for a while and then stopped without explanation.

A couple of weeks ago, after residents and staff were vaccinated, the facility restarted a few morning activities and lunchtime meals in the community rooms. Mom welcomed spending several hours a day out of her apartment. Then everything was halted again last Tuesday because six staff members tested positive for COVID. “I’m used to it,” Mom said about another confinement. This time the lockdown should be brief.

Researchers will surely study the pandemic’s emotional toll on residents of senior living communities. I’ll be interested in learning whether the industry thinks it could have done anything differently.

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

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. 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

Dearborn Express
Al Hippensteel, editor
312.939.8888
thedearbornexpress@gmail.com
Lessons Learned (or Not)

I have a friend who grew up on Long Island whose mother lived in a nursing home in New York. Lived, as in past tense. She died of COVID last year.

Now, she lived a very, very long life—she made it to 99 (she would’ve been 100 last week). Still, my friend was suspicious, skeptical, and angry with Andrew Cuomo. He wondered if perhaps COVID didn’t have to end his mother’s life.

The disease is so diabolical. When I got it about a year ago, I didn’t know who/where for sure I got it from, and just as important who I might have spread it to. But we do know now that Cuomo’s policy of moving COVID patients to nursing homes to make room in hospitals wasn’t such a good idea. And we know, from efforts to suppress counts by his staff, that they knew it wasn’t a good idea a long while ago.

Combined with the other stuff that’s floating around about him, I basically see in Cuomo much of what I despised about what’s-his-name. (Though, that’s nearly infinite.) It’s only right to call him out. I must confess, in real time, I was suspicious of his fireside chat deals. Look, we weren’t getting it from the President, and governors had to be the calming influences. But he (like Giuliani post 9/11) just seemed to like the limelight a little too much.

I hope he resigns.

Apart from that, it’s time to take stock of the past year in terms of different responses, if only to narrow down the practices that seemed effective. And doing that requires an open mind. As in, what if some states that opened more things earlier fared better than predicted? What did those states do? Might come in handy someday, but let’s hope not in a long time.

Take Florida, for example. Those shots of crowded beaches were sensational, but, they were outdoors, misleading, and it’s not the whole story. I found this Wall Street Journal opinion piece terribly interesting. Partisanship being what it is these days, the author frames it as who gets the last laugh: Governor DiSantis of Florida or Cuomo of New York? (I’d rather not laugh with either, but you get the point.)

That part’s a little petty but the numbers quoted do not lie. (It’s behind a paywall, so sorry if you don’t subscribe, but here are some highlights from the piece titled “Vindication for DiSantis”:

- The Sunshine State appears to have weathered the pandemic better than others like New York and California, which stayed locked down harder and longer.
- Mortality data bear out this conclusion. The Covid death risk increases enormously with each decade of age. More than 80% of Covid deaths in the U.S. have occurred among seniors over 65. They make up a larger share of Florida’s population than any other state except Maine. Based on demographics, Florida’s per-capita Covid death rate would be expected to be one of the highest in the country.
- Nope. Florida’s death rate is in the middle of the pack and only slightly higher than in California, which has a much younger population. Florida’s death rate among seniors is about 20% lower than California’s and 50% lower than New York’s, based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

That was partly because Florida took a targeted approach early on to protecting the elderly:

- The (DiSantis) administration halted outside visitations to nursing homes and bolstered their stockpile of personal protective equipment. Florida’s government also set up 23 Covid-dedicated nursing centers for elderly patients discharged from hospitals. Nursing-home residents who tested positive and couldn’t be isolated in their facilities were sent to these Covid-only wards.

Later surges led to new lockdowns in states like California and New York, but Florida didn’t lock back down:

- The fall and winter lockdowns don’t appear to have made any difference in the virus spread. Between Nov. 1 and Feb. 28, there were 5.8 new cases per 100 people in New York, 6.4 in California, and only 5 in Florida, where businesses could stay open at full capacity. But the economic impact of the lockdowns has been enormous.

- Employment declined by 4.6% in Florida in 2020, compared with 8% in California and 10.4% in New York. Leisure and hospitality jobs fell 15% in Florida, vs. 30% in California and 39% in New York.

Now, the author cherry picks a little: There are states that did do lockdowns doing better than Florida. But it’s worth looking closely at what has worked in any state.

You can disagree, and you can review the data yourself and perhaps conclude otherwise, but Florida has made measured, and yes, data-driven tradeoffs. (Unlike Texas.)

If we find ourselves faced with circumstances like this again, we’ll need all the effectiveness we can get, no matter what we think about who or where the ideas come from.

LINK TO ATLANTIC ARTICLE: https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/07/it-okay-go-beach/613849/
**Time & Location**

Mar 10, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
Meeting ID: 920 7263 4133  
Passcode: 443921

**About the Event**

Join Zoom Meeting [https://zoom.us/j/92072634133?pwd=aVQwM3BpTUtvM2ZXaHpnT0NSS2Zsdz09](https://zoom.us/j/92072634133?pwd=aVQwM3BpTUtvM2ZXaHpnT0NSS2Zsdz09) Meeting ID: 920 7263 4133 Passcode: 443921

This event has been so much fun that we’re having a fourth South Loop-themed trivia night. Alas, we can’t be in a tavern back room, so we’ll do it online. **This is a two-device event.** You’ll be watching the South Loop quizmaster on Zoom, but at the same time conferring with your teammates using a backchannel such as Google Meet or Microsoft Teams on your phone or on another computer.

There is no cost to participate in this event, nor do you need to be a member of SLN (but you should consider it!)

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**Thursday, March 4, 2021**

**Will Chicago Get Lucky and Have Lolla Back in 2021?**

Are we getting ahead of ourselves? Maybe...but it’s fun to dream.

We recently read about Mayor Lightfoot’s comments regarding a question about summer events and festivals possibly happening (via [Chicago Tribune](https://www.chicagotribune.com/)):

Live Nation acquired Austin-based C3 Presents, the company that puts on Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits. Chicago’s Lollapalooza was canceled in 2020, and the company and city officials have not yet commented on any 2021 summer festivals. A spokesperson for the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events said, “City of Chicago departments are considering options for summer events that follow all city and state health guidelines.”

Friday morning, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s office released this statement about summer festivals in 2021: “While we are not formally planning nor permitting events at this time, our COVID-19 indicators continue to trend in the right direction and we are hopeful that some events that align with health guidelines may be possible later this year. As such, Mayor Lightfoot has directed City departments to prepare for the possibility of events this summer and ensure any resources that could be necessary are available.”

The article cites that Live Nation is selling tickets for some large festivals in the UK this summer.

So will Lolla happen in our backyard this year? Our bet—don’t count on it.

Camilla Bruce, *In the Garden of Spite* (Penguin Random House 2021)

In honor of Women’s History Month, feminist historian Camilla Bruce resurrects Belle Gunness, local girl gone bad, and one of the most prolific female serial killers in American history. Like my great-grandmother, Little Brynhild Paulsdatter Storset moved from Norway to Chicago’s Logan Square at the end of the 19th century, living check to jowl with other Scandinavians in crowded tenements situated near a brooding limestone Lutheran church—the same wherein my great-grandmother knelt. Both women escaped cold, dark places, frighteningly inhabited by Hulder people; trolls who stole babies; and changelings who dragged humans underground—where girls born poor died poor. But that is where the similarity ends. Brynhild suffered ineffable violence both from her failed tenant-farmer father, “a good-for-nothing drunk with hard fists ...tenants’ daughters weren’t worth much back home, not even to the tenants,” and from the wealthy landlord’s son, to whom she had lost her virginity, and from whom she took a life. Brynhild became Bella when she got to Chicago, but her life was never beautiful. It was, instead, a decades-long struggle for spite and revenge: “I wanted to kill him again and again, and that was what I did.” One loses count of the bodies. Bella thinks: “There is nothing unnatural about me... I am as natural as they come. There are just not many of my kind.” She’s wrong. Although the US leads the world in its number of serial killers—3204 compared to the next closest competitor, England, with 166—women comprise fewer than 15% of the total. Like most of her murderous sisters, Bella employed poison—in a slice of homemade cake or injected into a juicy orange—but she eclipsed other femmes fatales by deft application of a meat cleaver to the head—sometimes while her victims’ hearts still beat. They were husbands (*gift in Norwegian means both marriage and poison*) and lovers, and occasionally, sometimes mistakenly, they were children. Bella became wealthier with each death, and eventually moved to a beautiful farm. Like the Black Widow monicker she ultimately earned, she drew subsequent victims into her dangerous web through the Victorian version of Tinder: “*Personal* – comely widow who owns a large farm in one of the finest districts in Laporte County, Indiana, desires to make the acquaintance of a gentleman equally well provided, with a view of joining fortunes. No replies by letter considered unless sender is willing to follow answer with personal visit. Triflers need not apply.” This book is for lovers of true crime—and powerful women.

**Lorraine Schmall**

Dearborn Park  March, 2021

Fuller Award: Sandra Cisneros, the poet, short story writer, novelist, essayist, performer, and artist whose work beautifully and profoundly explores working class lives and landscapes, will receive the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame's Fuller Award for lifetime achievement. Join us for this special online event, register here. If the Zoom webinar reaches capacity and you cannot join, we will be streaming the full program live on YouTube here.

A native Chicagoan, Cisneros started her illustrious career with the 1980 publication of the poetry chapbook Bad Boys, and soon rose to the top of the literary stratosphere with her 1984 young adult novel, The House on Mango Street. The coming-of-age story, which follows, in a series of vignettes, a year in the life of Esperanza Cordero, quickly became one of the most adored books of her generation, an almost must-read at schools throughout the country. Her literary outpouring continued with an incredible array of poems, stories, memoirs, and essays, including her most recent work, A House of My Own: Stories from My Life (2015).

American Writers Museum
180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
https://americanwritersmuseum.org/
Illinois' Best Attraction - USA Today
I’ve written before about how much I appreciate the free audio book program the Library of Congress provides for people who are blind or have physical disabilities that prevent them from reading print. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Pratt-Smoot Act, the legislation for the “Books for the Blind” program, and to celebrate, the National Library Service (NLS) is sponsoring a concert.

Jazz musician Matthew Whitaker has been a patron of the NLS music service for many years, and if you’re a fan of television’s 60 Minutes you may recall an episode a year or two ago featuring him on piano. He’s a highly gifted performer, age 19, with a lot of credits so far and a couple of albums out besides.

In normal years, the National Library Service would have held the concert in the Coolidge Auditorium at the Library of Congress, with an interview preceding, and a reception to follow. This year is not a normal year, so instead, they’ve pre-recorded the concert and an interview the National Library Service Director Karen Keninger did with Matthew.

Full disclosure: Karen and I got to know each other when we both were in New Jersey training with our Seeing Eye dogs in 2012. She returned home with new dog Jimi that year. I came home with now-retired Seeing Eye dog Whitney and we’ve kept in touch ever since. She is the one who alerted me to this historic anniversary. The celebratory concert streams free of charge on YouTube and the Library of Congress Facebook page at 8:00 pm Eastern Time today, March 3, 2021, and I’ll be tuning in. The interview is available at 8:00 a.m. Eastern on the Library of Congress YouTube channel.

No time to watch right now? No problem! The concert will remain on YouTube for two years, so if you miss it today, you can still catch it later. As Karen says, “If you like jazz, you won’t be disappointed!”

Another version of this post was published earlier on the Easterseals National blog.
The Columbia Chronicle Talks to Students About Pauly’s Pizzeria Closing

We recently posted about Pauly’s Pizzeria closing after a 20 year run on State Street. The Columbia Chronicle recently had an article talking about it’s role with its students:

As of Monday, Feb. 15, Pauly’s Pizza, 719 S. State St., is closed permanently, leaving frequenting students saddened with the unexpected closure.

Pauly’s, a local South Loop pizza hot spot, was more than just a restaurant for Columbia students. It was admired for its large portions, cheap prices and quality food.

“I will speak of Pauly’s Pizza for the rest of my life,” said Thurston Stevenson, a senior comedy writing and performance major. “I’m grateful for the memories and the food that I got there while I could; it will live on in my memories forever.”

We understand the sentiment and nostalgia for your favorite college pizza spot closing. Luckily for these students there are a ton of options close by.

Was Pauly’s much cheaper than say Pat’s on Clark street or Art of Pizza a couple retail spots down on State street? Hopefully it doesn’t break the bank for them.

Meeting with Alderman King

Thanks to our City Team (Lauren, Kelly, and Virginia), our March meeting speaker is Alderman Sophia King of the 4th Ward.

Indivisible Printers Row is hosting Ald. King on Monday, March 15th at 7:00pm. She plans to address police oversight, local crime, and keeping schools safe during the pandemic.

Our regular meeting will follow. Please NOTE the adjusted timing of the meeting.

We will have a separate Zoom link for each part of the meeting. The Alderman’s portion will be with a link from her office.

- 7:00-7:30pm SPEAKER

Then we will have a second Zoom link for our regular meeting.

- 7:30-8:15pm BUSINESS: National, State, and City Reports/Actions

- 8:15-8:30pm CONNECT (debrief and optional socializing)

SAVE THE DATE: Zoom links will be provided the day before.

Indivisible-printers-row@googlegroups.com

http://www.sloopin.com/
In Chicago Cooks: 45 Perfect Recipes for the Passionate Palate, the basics are covered for any kind of meal.

Not every food category is included here, but the ones we have chosen represent a foundation any cook will need to provide for a family or to entertain brilliantly. 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 long-time 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.

https://www.chicagocooks.net/ Available at Sandmeyer’s and Amazon.
Amaiya Sims, senior fashion merchandising major and winner of the NRF Next Generation Scholarship, plans to attend a merchant-in-training program with Kohl’s after graduation. Zachary Clingenpeel

Amaiya Sims was at work when she learned she was selected to win a $25,000 scholarship for future retailers over hundreds of applicants from other colleges and universities around the U.S.

Sims, a senior studying fashion merchandising, was in total disbelief when she heard the news.

"On my [work] break, I had to go to our break room closet so I could be on Zoom in a quiet area," Sims said. "When they made that announcement ... I got off that call yelling and screaming in the closet."

Sims is the top recipient of the 2021 National Retail Federation Foundation’s Next Generation Scholarship, which awards $25,000 to the top winner and lower level scholarships of $10,000 to four other finalists.

Sims said she took on the process of applying for the scholarship because she knew it would be worth it.

"It was an opportunity for me to create a body of work that would expand and challenge myself [and] also my portfolio," Sims said.

The NRF Foundation is a philanthropic organization that represents many retail chains in America and educates people like Sims, who seek to own a retail brand, by providing educational programs and opportunities to work with chief executive officers, according to its website.

The three stages of the application process included a brand video with an essay about retail innovation, a case study with a corporation in collaboration with the NRF Foundation and company executive interviews.

Sims’ brand video featured Sims giving a pitch for her mood board, explaining how she decorated African costumes for a Black culture organization in high school and detailing her goal of owning a stylist agency for young professionals.

"This scholarship was one of the most extensive processes I’ve been a part of, [more] than with any [other] scholarship,” Sims said.

Colbey Reid, chair of the Fashion Studies Department, had Sims in her course, “Fashion Lab Practicum” for both Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

Reid teaches fashion theory with a focus on technology and disability studies and said Sims had the ability to pair innovation with her research skills gleaned from the course.

"One of the things she possesses in spades is imagination,” Reid said. "Amaiya is able to bring really deep research and academic industrious resources and synthesize that material to come up with really creative propositions."

After Sims graduates this year, she plans to attend a merchant-in-training program with Kohl’s department store.

"The main reason why I have chosen to work with them is because they are a company I have grown up with,” Sims said. “They’re always on par with what’s happening in the world but catering to the needs of their consumers and employees.”

Sims said she does not want her success to just benefit her as a Black woman, but for it to also create opportunities for other people who are minorities.

"I don’t want to be the only one—I want to be able to build my table, but also invite other people to sit at that table and go off and build their own,” Sims said.

https://columbiachronicle.com/
Videos, illustrations and stories: FRANK magazine focuses on student collaboration

By Camryn Cutinello, Staff Reporter
March 2, 2021

Did you know that Lincoln Park used to be a cemetery? According to “FRANK Ghost Adventures” from FRANK magazine, there are around 35,000 bodies currently buried under Lincoln Park.

“FRANK Ghost Adventures” is just one of many articles produced by the FRANK team in its latest issue. Students collaborated to cover international student struggles during the pandemic, a local coffee shop created by a graphic designer and a guide to caring for different houseplants, among other topics.

Each semester photography, graphic design, illustration, animation, journalism and interaction design majors come together to produce FRANK, a fully digital magazine housed in the Photography Department.

“The main purpose of the magazine to me is learning how to work with different artists in a collaborative environment,” said senior graphic design major and FRANK contributor Irina Goldman. “It truly was a team effort, and you get to express yourself in different ways and figure out how to work in that dynamic.”

FRANK was created in 2012 by Internship and Career Adviser Jo-Nell Sieren and Special Adviser for Community Engagement Peter Fitzpatrick as an application for iPads. In 2016 they moved the magazine online so more students had access to it.

The purpose of the magazine is to allow students from different majors to work together to create something new and build their portfolios, Sieren said.

“I want a student from any of those majors ... to be able to come in and get something out of this experience that they really need for their own work or their own portfolio,” Sieren said. “Is it a personal sort of story? Or is it specific things [they are interested in] that they wanted ... to be able to write about? There’s really nothing that’s off-limits.”

From bad Tinder dates, to adoption experiences, to Chicago ghost stories and a political campaign for a cat, FRANK covers a variety of topics.

“Bad Tinder Dates” features an interactive experience that allows the reader to choose whether they go on a date with one of the five people presented as options. The reader can read about each person before choosing whether to "swipe" right or left. Afterward, they get to see what the date might have been like.

“Ray 2020,” which features a video, fake campaign material and a bio about a candidate—who is a cat—came from a more serious place than it may seem.


Chocolate Chip Oatmeal 14.99

https://notjustcookies.com/
If you were excited about the transformation of a South Loop surface parking lot into a pair of modest skyscrapers with a hotel and supermarket, you picked the wrong week to quit sniffing glue.

December, 2020 rendering of 525 South Wabash (Courtesy of BKV Group)

In a memo to his constituents, 42nd Ward Alderman Brendan Reilly conveyed the news that the developer of 525 South Wabash Avenue, e-Terra+, has decided to pull its project from the log flume of City Hall approval. The project was designed by Minneapolis-based BKV Group.

Mr. Reilly says the north suburban developer wants to revise the plan and try again.

https://www.chicagoarchitecture.org/2021/02/20/south-loop-apartment-plan-dies-on-the-vine/
What would you do if you had a tiny lot just begging for improvement? Why, you’d build tiny apartments on it, naturally. Which is just what Chicago’s LG Development Group wants to do with the empty lot at 776 South Dearborn Street in the South Loop. At Monday night’s community meeting, hosted by the Near South Planning Board Monday night at the Hilton Chicago, LG announced plans to erect a 14-story building (with a 15th-story amenity deck) on the 4,700-square-foot property at the south end of Printers Row. The Transit Oriented Development, designed by Evanston firm Myefski Architects, would consist of 90 microunits and 40 extended stay units, with retail space at ground level. The micro-units, becoming all the rage in today’s bang-for-your-buck real estate rental market, would come with flexibly furnished and cater to those looking to spend more time at work and at play than at home. Interestingly, small pets would likely be welcomed in the small units, but roommates would not; leases would stipulate one person per apartment, and would begin with a 12-month minimum stay. The extended stay units would be geared toward corporate housing. Also fully furnished, leases would run month-to-month, with just a one-month minimum stay. The retail space, originally envisioned to occupy the Dearborn facing of the building, has been swung around to the south onto Polk Street to provide a presence to the south facade, while the main entrance would be placed on the Dearborn “front” of the structure. In another nod to public request, the Federal Street facing would contain service entrances, but would be built with the same styling as the front, so as not to burden the Federal Street facade with a “back of the building” vibe. Being a fully-furnished project, with only a small amount of retail space, 776 South Dearborn can avoid building a loading dock, so that won’t ever be an issue. Also not an issue: Cars entering and exiting the building. There are precisely zero parking spaces included, the ultimate TOD. Planned as it is for inclusion in an Historical District, the Chicago Landmarks Commission has been very active in determining how 776 looks fit into the South Dearborn streetscape. Initially pegged as a shorter tower, the Commission instead requested the building match the height of its next-door neighbor to the north, The Franklin Building at 720 South Dearborn. The development team obliged, and also designed the top-floor amenities to occupy the southern portion of that uppermost level, so as to lessen the infringement on The Franklin residents.

LG Group, which will also serve as the general contractor for 776 South Dearborn, hopes to break ground this summer, and expects a 12-13 month build time for completion.
Chicago Now Ticketing You For Going 6 MPH Over Limit — Here’s Where Speed Cameras Are In Your Neighborhood

Drivers will be fined $35 if they're going 6-10 mph over the speed limit and $100 if they're going even quicker.

Kelly Bauer

8:15 AM CST on Mar 1, 2021

CHICAGO — The city is ticketing people for going 6 mph over the speed limit starting Monday.

Drivers will be fined $35 if a speed camera catches them going 6-10 mph over the speed limit and $100 if they’re going even quicker, according to the Mayor’s Office. Tickets are sent in the mail.

The change — backed by Mayor Lori Lightfoot — has been heavily criticized, with aldermen saying the mayor is “nickeling and diming” Chicagoans during a pandemic that’s hurt many people financially. The Mayor’s Office has said the change was needed to reduce speeding, as the number of people dying in car crashes rose 45 percent in 2020 than the year before.

You can look up speed cameras in your area online.

The cameras are in Children's Safety Zones near parks and schools. There are 60 active zones with 140 cameras.

Note: Jones College Prep has two cameras on State Street between Harrison and Polk.

https://blockclubchicago.org/
Saturdays with Seniors: 
Guest Post by Lola Hotchkis

Life at the Corner Drug Store
February 27, 2021

I am pleased to introduce Lola Hotchkis as our Saturdays with Seniors guest blogger today. Lola’s cousin Nancy is a friend of mine and describes Lola as “the writer in the family.” Retired after a successful career in business, Lola lives in the Chicago suburbs with her husband and joined our class once I started teaching via Zoom. This week’s assignment (in honor of COVID-19 vaccines) was “Shots” and prompted Lola to write this sweet slice of Americana.

Editor’s note: I am fortunate to have a few dear friends named “Nancy” — read closely and you’ll discover which one of them is Lola’s cousin.

Fred Gaier’s Shots
by Lola Hotchkis

My father Fred earned his pharmacy degree at the University of Illinois Chicago in 1940 and worked in a neighborhood drug store until drafted by the U.S. Army in 1942. Safely stationed in a Skagway, Alaska, hospital pharmacy, his memories of war time were good ones.

After the war, all Dad wanted was his own drug store. He found a store for sale, borrowed money from his uncle, and Gaier Drug Company, Inc., was established in 1947 at the southwest corner of Rockwell and Leland in Chicago’s Lincoln Square neighborhood.

Young Mary Faust’s uncle Bill sold insurance to the Gaier family. Knowing that Fred was single and a good catch, he brought his niece Mary to the store for a soda. The rest is history: Fred and Mary got hitched in September 1948. The drug store became the family business and the family fun.

Mom’s sister Jackie also had a family business. Uncle Eric rented organs and Jackie would play for events. Aunt Jackie recognized the talent in their daughter Nancy and trained her in the profession. To attract Christmas business, Eric would move an organ into the drug store window and grade-school-aged Nancy would play.

One of Dad’s friends dressed as Santa to entertain neighborhood children. He was positioned in a back corner in front of the public telephone booth and close to Dad’s domain in the back. Dad kept a bottle of bourbon conveniently located among the medicine bottles.

When he saw winter on the horizon, Dad brought home flu vaccine to his family. He would boil needles, carefully fill a syringe, and each of us received an annual flu shot. That’s why I’m not shot adverse.

Dad also made his own hand cream to sell in the store. The family helped produce it in our kitchen. Dad boiled the ingredients on the stove, then poured the hot liquid into thick white jars. Each family member was assigned a share of jars at the kitchen table. Our mission: Stir the liquid in each jar with a wooden tongue depressor until it solidified. We’d keep asking Dad, “Is it solid enough yet?” When the answer was affirmative, he’d give us new jars of liquid to stir while he capped and labeled the finished product.

Dad’s health suffered over the years with that bottle of bourbon in the back. His friends loved to come and visit. Each was offered a shot of bourbon. Each had one shot, but Dad had one shot with each friend.

Dad loved his store but the competition from Walgreens and Osco won out. No one would buy a corner drug store in 1968, but Osco came calling with a job offer. The district manager was smart. He helped clean out the store, bought the inventory that could be used, and placed Dad in the Osco closest to Rockwell and Leland. His customers followed, but I’ll never forget the day Dad put the key in the door for the last time.

He cried.

Beth Finke’s books: “Safe and Sound”, “Long Time No See” and “Writing Out Loud” can be purchased at Sandmeyer’s Book Store.
Sheldrick Holmes: Grail Café

Thank you Ann Miller and Illinois policy board for this story and helping get our story out!!!
Check it out!!! It’s the community that will keep us open Will, Grit, and Determination! https://www.illinoispolicy.org/.../sheldrick-holmes.../

“I moved here from San Diego, and I’ve been in Chicago for about 14 years. I graduated and earned my master's in finance and accounting from Roosevelt University. I love Chicago and I really wanted to be immersed in the city.”

“I found a job as an analyst at a logistics company located within the Sears Tower. I worked there a couple years before transitioning to another company in the finance field. After eight or nine years, the company went through a restructuring, and I realized that I wasn’t really inspired by the industry or my work.”

“I really wanted to return to my passion, which is cooking and food. So, in 2016 I went to Kendall College culinary school. I worked full time while also studying, and eventually left the field of finance when I finished school.”

“I worked in the restaurant industry for a couple years, but it wasn’t enough. I knew I needed to start my own business. I had built up enough courage and confidence in my ability to create what I wanted, so I wrote a business plan from scratch.”

“I started my American Dream. I wrote my own plan, presented it to the bank, and I was able to secure a small business loan. I put all my savings in the business. We started construction July 2019 and opened Jan. 1.”

“I own the Grail Café; our slogan is ‘where goodness can be found’. The ‘goodness’ is the community. Our mission and vision have always been to have a place you come in and you’re able to let down some of those barriers we put up in the world. And you can leave refreshed, hopefully to continue spreading light and love into the world.”

“Even in this odd, terrible, challenging learning process we’re going through, that’s still our mission.”

“I didn’t realize how much I would learn about the Chicago and Illinois Way”.

“I am very much an optimistic person, to a fault some would say. I always believed people and the government aspire to the common good and to help those in need. People take that at face value, but it’s very shocking to find out that is not the case.”

“I was not prepared to play this ‘Game of Thrones’ type of process for assistance.”

“That’s frustrating for a new business coming in. Here we are trying to just start our business, make a living, add to the community in a positive way. We have no idea that there are all of these other factors going on which work counter to what we’re trying to do.”

“When you apply for [a Small Business Administration] loan, you know exactly how much money you have from Day 1. That money doesn’t include provision for a pandemic.”

“So, when March 15 rolls around and indoor dining is shut down, your profits fall by 50 to 75% of what you were projecting, but you still have rent, employees, vendor costs, etc.”

“It’s devastating.”

“People push back and say, ‘Well doesn’t the government have PPP and all this other money for business?’”

“Yes, but we’re not Boeing or Chase. We don’t say, ‘Hey, we need aid,’ and receive it the next day, or within a couple days or a week. We file the applications and then it’s a waiting game.”

“You know how infuriating it was to have an issue as large as this pandemic and have no one see you?”

“You feel invisible.”

“While we’re waiting for relief to come, we fall farther and farther in debt. So, by the time relief comes, we might just, hopefully, maybe, get out of the hole.”

“I have not been happy with how the city has handled things. I don’t see this mayor at all, and it bothers me as a constituent.”

“I’m close to downtown and City Hall. I feel like there’s a lack of heart that has come down from the city.”

“The mayor is sitting on $1 million in her escrow account for an election that’s two years away. Meanwhile, we’re down here suffering, and we can’t even get a $5,000 or $10,000 grant to keep our business alive.”

“These are the little things I think the public doesn’t see or doesn’t care about. It’s very difficult for us small businesses to be vulnerable and lower the veil about what we continue to go through.”

“Lightfoot says, ‘We’re all in this together.’ But we’re not.”

Sheldrick Holmes
Grail Café owner
Chicago, Illinois
Recent Updates

Get Vaccinated This Weekend Jewel-Osco has teamed up with Bronzeville Senior Week to vaccinate seniors, age 65+. Make an appointment here. This is a very limited time opportunity so make sure to register as soon as you see this!

City of Chicago In-Home COVID-19 Vaccination Contact Form Are you homebound? Are you a senior 65 and up? Register here to receive your vaccine without leaving your home.

A Few More Vaccination Sites To get vaccinated with Walgreens, click here. To get vaccinated with Albertsons Companies, click here.

- Northbound I-90/94 Eastbound Ida B. Wells Ramp Reopens Construction has concluded, and the ramp is now available for use.
- Mayor Lightfoot Announces Immediate Reopening for Chicago Businesses Read more about the specific guidelines here.
- BACP Announces Further Easing of COVID-19 Regulations Read more here.

United Center Vaccination Site A vaccine site at the United Center, capable of vaccinating up to 6,000 people per day, will open March 10. Senior citizens aged 65+ will have first access to making appointments at this site, followed by others in Category 1B. If you have not done so yet, please register via ZocDoc to be notified with appointment availability.

Money for Historic Small Restaurants There are just a few days until nominations close for Backing Historic Small Businesses. Tuesday, March 9 at 11:59 pm EST is the deadline for nominations. Program information and the nomination form are available here.

Upcoming Events

Chicago Park District Events Now that the Chicago Park District has begun reopening parks and lakefronts, they have lots of virtual and in-person events. Find what interests you on their events page. There are also job opportunities and other opportunities on their official website.

CPS Engagement Opportunities CPS is offering several opportunities for residents to engage with CPS this week and next. Specific dates, times, and links can be found on their calendar here.

Vaccine Q & A with Roosevelt University Dr. Melissa Hogan, dean of the Roosevelt University College of Science, Health and Pharmacy, hosts this four-part series on the ins and outs of COVID-19 vaccines. Register for free events here.

HPNC Annual Pancake Breakfast The Pancake Breakfast is a great time to connect with friends and neighbors and to learn more about the important work HPNC has been doing this past year. This year’s breakfast will be held online on April 11, 2021. More details to come at hpnclub.org.

Shred-A-Thon We have secured dates for this year's Shred-A-Thon events. While locations are still tentative, there will be four different events scheduled for April 17, May 15, August 14, and October 9, 2021.
Today, March 8, marks VOA’s 125th anniversary. Here at VOA Illinois, we have over 115 dedicated staff members serving over 2,500 individuals and families, continuing the tradition to “reach and uplift” just like our founders did in 1896.

We couldn’t have gotten to where we are today without our incredible community of partners and supporters just like you. Together we are changing the lives of thousands of people yearly across Illinois. Thank you, for your generosity, and for your heart for service.

Together we’ll build on the past 125 years of this critical work and pave the way towards a future where hope always lives; for the Veterans who are struggling or in crisis, the children in foster care and their families, the low-income seniors and adults with disabilities, and our other community members in need.

Gratefully,

Nancy Hughes Moyer
President and CEO, VOA Illinois

P.S. Covid-19 marks its own somber anniversary this month, but our dedicated and generous supporters continue fueling relief and lifesaving care where it’s needed most. In honor of our 125th, please consider joining our monthly giving program, a Community of Hope, to ensure that VOA resources are there for people needing our help, especially during Covid-19.

Friday: Photos at Zoom Discussion Session

Photos at Zoom Discussion Session: Widline Cadet

March 12, 12 p.m. CST
Presented virtually on Zoom
Register here

Join the MoCP for a casual drop-in session where we will closely read and discuss one photograph together in the museum’s collection. This week we will look at Widline Cadet’s Not Yet Titled, 2019.

This session will not be recorded in order to better facilitate conversation amongst participants

Register here

Columbia College Chicago
600 South Michigan Av
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 663-5554

On the other side of the lake, Donna Hippensteel looks out over the ice shelf near South Haven, Mi. Photo 2/06/2021
A more robust Clear Map is now on the Chicago Police Web Site.

Feb 28, 2021  1100 S Clark
AGGRAVATED BATTERY of a police officer Street

Feb 17, 2021  1100 S Clark
AGGRAVATED ROBBERY  Retail Store

Feb 22, 2021  Roosevelt and State
RETAIL THEFT  Drug Store

Feb 22, 2021  1100 S Wabash
AUTO THEFT  Street

Feb 20, 2021  1200 S Michigan Ave
THEFT   $500 under  Apartment

Feb 27, 2021  40 E Roosevelt Rd
AUTO THEFT  Gas Station

Feb 23, 2021  State and Roosevelt
RETAIL THEFT  Convenience Store

Feb 20, 2021  700 S State
AUTO THEFT  Street

Feb 18, 2021  1100 S State
AUTO THEFT/RECOVERY  Street

Police: Man shot outside South Loop office supply store

February 20, 2021  CWBChicago South Loop

A 30-year-old man is hospitalized following a shooting Saturday afternoon on a South Loop retail parking lot. No arrests have been made.

The gunman walked up to the victim and fired shots, striking him in the shoulder and foot outside Staples, 1130 South Canal, around 3:30 p.m., according to a CPD statement and witnesses.

An ambulance took the victim to Stroger Hospital. His condition was not released. Publicly-available CPD records do not show any arrests for the man since at least 2014.

Investigators recovered five shell casings from the parking lot. Police did not release any suspect descriptions.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

On the afternoon of August 5, a man was shot in the back and stomach after an argument with another man escalated outside the same retail complex.

Police arrested 28-year-old Cheyenne Rodriguez inside a nearby parking garage minutes after the August incident. Prosecutors charged him with aggravated battery with a firearm. He’s being held without bail.
Dearborn Express
Al Hippensteel, editor
312.939.8888
To Subscribe
thedearbornexpress@gmail.com

Contempo Marble and Granite in the West Loop is emptying a warehouse of half slabs used in the finest homes in Chicago. If you are planning a kitchen or bath renovation, pick out your natural stone or quartz for countertops and vanities now at bargain prices. Call 312.953.2654

801 S Plymouth Ct, Unit 603
1 bed, 1 bath
$1650 per month

161 Harrison, Unit #503
2 bed, 2 bath
$2600 per month

COVID-19 CASES AS OF February 14 IN 60605 Zip Code
451 Confirmed Cases
13,088 Tests completed

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<th>Jan 15</th>
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No data on deaths per zip code
https://www.wbez.org/stories/map-by-zip-code-of-coronavirus-covid-19-cases-illinois/90ca85cd-bdf4-423a-a7bc-924fcee9d0f3

Cook County Real Estate Transactions web site is currently down. See next issue on March 30.

For Rent

Susan Dickman
Koenigrubloff/Berkshire
Hathaway Home
772-627-8176
Susandickman.com

Dedicated outdoor parking spot near the intersection of 9th Street and S. Park Terr. available for rent immediately. $165/month.
Write to parking801@yahoo.com for more information.
711 S. Dearborn Street: Unit 201-303, Chicago, IL 60605
Price: $1,260,000

Custom designed loft located on Printers Row in the premier and historic gem, the Donohue Building. This home is a must for connoisseurs of architecture and sustainability.

220 South Bell, Chicago, 60612
3 bed, 2.5 bath, $365,000

Fee simple town home has no assessment. 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms is ideal for an envisioning owner as an occupied home or as an investment property. Main level has living room with refinished hardwood floors, powder room, dining room, spacious eat-in kitchen with island.

40 E 9th St #1606
1 bed/ 1 bath
1125 Sq Ft
$225,000

Anne Rosen
Keller Williams
312.545.7148
Buyarosenhome.kw.com

732 S Financial Pl #418
1 bed, 1 bath, 950 sq ft
$249,500

Mario Greco
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
773.687.4696

720 S Dearborn St #301
2 bed, 1.5 bath, 1400 SF
$335,000

Elizabeth Miszczyszyn
D'april properties
773.419.2864

1111 S Wabash Ave #1001
2 bed, 2 bath, 1357 SF
$399,888

Timothy Rhoten
Red Carpet Investment Group 3125452443

910 S Michigan Ave #1814
1 bed, 1 bath, 1057 SF
$200,888

Timothy Rhoten
Red Carpet Investment Group 3125452443