Looking Back, Looking Forward

Last year, the headline on the January issue read "Better New Year." I talked about the light at the end of the tunnel. We had a new vaccine. We thought this would do it. Still, there's reason for optimism. It looks like we might be turning the corner on this one.

**South Loop Neighbor’s Annual Meeting**

The meeting was hosted by President Jim Wales. He reviewed the events of the past year and despite Covid, it was a full and active year. See page 14.

Looking forward, a new slate of candidates was presented and voted on.

Greg Borzo
Benjamin Cottrell
Christine Hunt
Roger Marsh
Dorothy Miaso
Dennis McClendon
Jim Wales

The Aye’s were unanimous.

Dennis McClendon wrapped up the meeting with his usual detailed description with slides of new developments starting on the south around Motor Row and McCormick Place. Dennis moved us across the map towards the north mentioning large and small developments that are planned, stalled or have already started. You can see the latest on the South Loop Development Roundup at [https://youtu.be/GKAaKzfMK4s](https://youtu.be/GKAaKzfMK4s)


Link to Facebook group: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/1475398529519963/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1475398529519963/)

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**In this Issue**

- Beth Finke: Guest writer Regan Burke
- Without Being Contagious to Others
  - Page 13

- Bonnie McGrath: The Chicago Reader recently celebrated its 50th anniversary—and some of those years were the best years of my life. Page 9 and 20

- Mondays with Mike: On the shoulders of two years of research
  - Page 5

- Marianne Goss: The Working Class and Higher Education
  - Page 4

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**INDEX**

- Jazz Showcase..................................................p 2
- South Loop Neighbors ........................................p 3
- Marianne Goss ................................................p 4
- Mondays with Mike .................. .........................p 5
- Lorraine Schmall’s Book Review...............................p 7
- Newcity. ..............................................................p 11
- Roger Marsh Crime Stats ........................................p 23, 24
- Police Blotter ................................................p 22
- Real Estate ......................................................p 25-26
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!

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Wed, Jan 17, 8pm.................. Bob Lark’s Alumni Big Band

Thu- Sun, 8pm........................ Tenor Time – CD Release on Afarmusic

Chicago Soul Jazz Collective
w/ Dee Alexander

Bob Lark

Scott Burns/
John Wojciechowski
Geof Bradfield

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South Loop Neighbors

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

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

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

WWW.Southloopneighbors.org

South Loop Development Roundup

A reminder: Our January 10th online meeting covered the development and planning issues active in the neighborhood. See the development presentation here on You Tube.

https://youtu.be/GKAaKzfMK4s

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

Dennis McClendon
Director of Planning and Development

Jaqi Green Interiors

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If it ain't broke, don't fix it. We'll take what you've got, add what you want & make it great
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Even when universities address the barriers of cost and inadequate preparation, however, an achievement gap persists. A less obvious reason is that working-class students who enroll in college often don’t think that they belong. They feel out of place not only with other students but also with erudite professors, college traditions, and plush campus facilities. They lack the confidence, sense of entitlement, and independence of their more sophisticated peers.

“[S]tudents from working-class families — those who are low-income or the first in their families to attend college — struggle to achieve in college,” Politico reported. “Even the most highly qualified working-class students receive lower GPAs and drop out more often than their middle- and upper-class peers.”

Researchers have found that the working-class value of interdependence is undermined in the independent culture of higher education. This erodes confidence. When facing setbacks, working-class students tend to think that they don’t have what it takes to succeed in college. They may fear looking stupid if they ask questions or seek tutoring and other help.

“It appears that a cultural mismatch is what’s causing [working-class] students to drop out,” Study International concluded. “Many of these students reportedly feel … that the campus is not set up for students like them.”

Colleges and universities must be aware of the research and presumably are trying to address the problem. College isn’t for everyone, but as long as it doesn’t serve all classes equally, there is a problem.

https://www.chicagonow.com/retired-in-chicago/about/

What Fox News Hosts Were Really Thinking on January 6

Before January 6th had come to a close, the hosts of Fox News had already said that the rioters were not Trump supporters and even alluded that Antifa may have instigated riots. But this week, thanks to Mark Meadow’s text messages shared with the U.S. House select committee investigating the January 6th Capitol riots, we learned that three of the network’s hosts were saying something very different in private. This week, we speak with Angelo Carusone, President and CEO of Media Matters, a progressive non-profit that monitors misinformation in the right-wing media, to put this latest Fox controversy in context.
On the shoulders of two years of research

I’m as fatigued as everyone else when it comes to dealing with the pandemic. The omicron variant news made a lot of people feel like we’re starting over again. But, for a glass-half-empty kinda guy, I’m optimistic that we have the spiky little pest on the run.

I know that runs counter to news about case counts. But I’ll quote CDC Director Rochelle Walensky during a recent NPR interview:

...we are standing on the shoulders of now two years of science and a lot of information...

In point of fact, we’re standing on the shoulders of decades of research when it comes to the vaccines, and hundreds of years of life science research. But her point was this: It’s amazing how fast and how much we’ve learned in the last two. Two years ago today, covid felt like a rumor. Two years ago, come this March, it took me five days to be approved to get a covid test, and once I did my drive-up swabs, it took another four days to get the result. I learned the result after growing so ill that I went to the emergency room. The positive test came in while I was there.

Before my hospital stay, I quarantined for days, staying in our bedroom and only coming out for food and drink. I carried a bottle of Clorox and spread a layer of bleach on anything I touched. People were wiping down grocery bags and groceries themselves. (Note: It was and STILL is important to wash your hands thoroughly and often, and to avoid touching your face.)

Now, even with the omicron rush, I can get a test and have results the next day (at the worst). I know that the surface cleaning didn’t matter a whole lot. I know that masks help and that some masks help more than others. I have had three vaccines counting the booster.

Omicron appears to be much less dangerous than previous flavors, and if South Africa is any indicator, it’ll burn itself out pretty fast. And for those unlucky enough to have caught omicron, there is evidence that in a delicious irony, having had omicron appears to build resistance to the more dangerous delta variant.

Now, if we can get the laggards to get vaccinated, we can also shrink the number of petri dishes that covid can mutate in. At this point, if someone hasn’t gotten their jabs, probably no amount of information or persuasion is going to work. But these economists may be onto something: simple incentives and disincentives.

It’s been two years of a weary slog, but it’s also brought light to how remarkable we humans can be. And also: that the government matters, as explained in this Scientific American article. The government funded much of the research that led to the mRNA vaccines—though big Pharma will reap enormous profits from them.

That’s for another post.

In any case, I’m hopeful. That’s my story and I’m sticking to it.
Monday, January 3, 2022

Are Half Sour and Burger Point Best Burger Spots in the Sloop?

We’re not burger experts, but apparently this Instagram user does. They have Acadia as the highest ranked burger spot in the Sloop (obviously they’re not aware they’ve closed). Beyond that, Half Sour (755 S. Clark) and Burger Point (1900 S. State) are the only other South Loop locations ranked:

https://www.instagram.com/windycityburgerreviews/?utm_source=ig_embed&ig_rid=0dcf7623-0ec8-4062-bcc6-7ac3506c2f1a

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Block Club Chicago Awarded $1.6 Million Grant From American Journalism Project To Expand

In conjunction with the American Journalism Project grant, the Chicago Community Trust pledged an additional $450,000 in matching funds to Block Club over three years.

Block Club Chicago Staff  Jan 11, 2022

The American Journalism Project, an initiative aimed at boosting nonprofit journalism around the country, announced Tuesday it’s awarded Block Club Chicago a three-year, $1.6 million grant to grow the business side of its operation.

In conjunction with the American Journalism Project grant, the Chicago Community Trust pledged an additional $450,000 in matching funds to Block Club over three years.

The funding is part of the American Journalism Project’s 2022 investment in newsrooms. Three other nonprofit newsrooms were selected to receive grants: Sahan Journal in Minnesota, San José Spotlight and Spotlight PA. The American Journalism Project has now awarded more than $30 million in grants to 31 newsrooms.

Block Club, which was founded by three editors of the former DNAinfo Chicago news site, will use the funding to add business- and operational-side positions and projects. A key part of the grant will be used to create five business positions in the first half of 2022.

See the rest of the story by clicking on the link below

https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/01/11/block-club-chicago-awarded-1-6-million-grant-from-american-journalism-project-to-expand/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=4c1c869d24-
Hanif Abdurraqib & Ashley Evans: “Sing, Aretha, Sing!”

A young Aretha Franklin captivates her community with the song “Respect” during the height of the Civil Rights Movement in Sing, Aretha, Sing!, a striking picture book biography that will embolden today’s young readers to sing their own truth. Join us to hear both author Hanif Abdurraqib and illustrator Ashley Evans discuss their crafts, how this book came together, and the lasting legacy of Aretha Franklin. This program will be hosted online via Zoom, register for the program here.

American Writers Museum
180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
https://americanwritersmuseum.org/
Naomi Hirahara, *Clark and Division* (SOHO Books 2021).

Google "Clark and Division" and you’re as wont to find a current chronology of shootings, strong-arms, and sex crimes as you are critical praise for the latest book by Naomi Hirahara, a mystery writer celebrated by the Trib and the Times and honored with myriad international prizes. Hirahara sets her story on the still-seedy side of this Northside neighborhood, where thousands of select young Japanese — “the best Nisei specimens, the ones with broad white smiles and spotless suits and dresses” — were recruited to relocate to cities far from the west coast, where, supposedly, they could not threaten Americans’ safety. Rose Ito, beautiful, charming, brave, and confident enough to wear red lipstick and yellow dresses, was among those granted leave from the concentration camps in remote spots — from Idaho to Arkansas — to which they and their families were forced by FDR after Pearl Harbor. Chicago was already home to about 400 Japanese people, but the nearly 20,000 who ended up here after the camps (among the largest relocations in the United States) included criminals and born-again Christians; seasoned flower-growers and scions of pearl-dealers; gamblers and gunners for the U.S. Army; and many young men and women who, like Rose, worked in the Curtiss Candy Company making Baby Ruths or in the 6-million-square-foot Dodge-Chicago plant, making B-29s.

Rose was the trailblazer for the Ito family, who planned to follow her to Chicago. But tragically, one day before their arrival, Rose was found dead on the subway tracks at Clark and Division, her arm severed and her body ravaged from a botched abortion. Was it murder? Suicide? An accident? A hate crime? Who got her pregnant? Who knew what? Aki Ito, the shy yet unflappable, hard-working, and devoted younger sister would get to the bottom of her sister’s demise. And Rose, it turns out, was not the only victim. Part family saga, part historical commentary, and part thriller, *Clark and Division* — the book and the neighborhood — harbors serial rapists, extortionist cops, misguided patriots, crude racists and dangerous misogynists. There are Black librarians and Polish beauty operators, transsexuals and Buddhist monks; Greek restaurateurs and German Turners; prostitutes and preachers; enemies and friends — and newly-arrived young citizens who share the fear and excitement of trying to make it in what seems like a foreign land. Like Rose and Aki, who weathered and tried to redress discrimination, Hirahara doesn’t “make any speeches about racial equality or anything like that.” *Clark and Division* is a mystery with a fascinating context, not a polemic. Ride the Red Line and check it out.

Lorraine Schmall
Dearborn Park
January, 2022
The Chicago Reader recently celebrated its 50th anniversary—and some of those years were the best years of my life

The last piece I wrote for the Chicago Reader was in July, 2008. I’d run into Reverend Al Sharpton getting a shoe shine on Chicago Avenue. I think I complimented him regarding a wisecrack he’d recently made on MSNBC, when he was asked why dejected Blacks didn’t just become Republicans; and he said, “If you have a fight with your wife, you don’t go into the street and just pick up another woman.”

I’ve never been able to find that story online—nor the hard copy in my house or the draft in an old computer or in my mother’s closet where she now has everything I ever wrote stacked up. But a letter to the editor about it is on the Reader website, written by a guy who had his own experience running into Reverend Al.

Speaking of my mother saving my writing, when I ventured out to write a story for the Reader about Anna Quindlen 30 years ago, who was at a bookstore signing books, I spotted my mother in line waiting to get one signed—and I overheard my mom tell Quindlen gushingly that she was her favorite writer.

I hid until my mother left and then I told Quindlen that it was my mother who said that. I said I was sort of jealous; I thought I was my mother’s favorite writer—“she keeps all my stories under her bed,” I said. (Which she did before stacking them in the closet.)

And Quindlen said, “My father stashes all my stories under his bed.”

When I turned in the Quindlen story, I included that anecdote at the end. Later that night the phone rang with a question from then-editor Mike Lenehan.

(Back then, there was no email and hard copy had to arrive at the Reader office in River North on Monday—I lived nearby and walked over there on Monday morning—and the editing was done on Monday night. And sometimes into the wee hours of the morning—before the typesetting and printing happened that brought the paper to the street on Thursday.)

Lenehan asked if that anecdote had been scratched out by me or the lower-rung editor who’d passed it to him for the final edit. I didn’t do that, I told him.

“Well, I’m putting it back in,” he said.

The same thing happened on another Monday night when he called to ask me who scratched out parts of the ending of a piece I wrote about George Solti, about his last night conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra—before he retired. She did, I told him. “Well, I’m putting it back in,” he said.

And that story went on to win a Peter Lisagor Award—my first one—the only award that the late Mike Royko said he ever cared that he won. “The Pulitzer is fixed,” he said. He’d won that, too.

I beat the Reader movie critic that year (as well as an art critic for Chicago Magazine, who were also finalists in the category). And he glared at me at the after-party at the bar we all went to to celebrate the winners. I didn’t blame him.

When the Reader turned 25, there was a big party at some unusual place. And I had a great time, and mentioned that to Alison True at the party, who had by then become the editor. She mentioned how odd it was that all of us loner writers were able to come together in one place and enjoy themselves. I knew exactly what she meant.

The story I had in the Reader the week of that party was about a controversial federal judge who was a friend of mine, and who suddenly decided to retire. It was a very big story and I had a real scoop. I knew him very well and I had a birds-eye view of what went on in real time as it was happening. And that story won an award, too—the Herman Kogan Meritorious Achievement Award from the Chicago Bar Association. (And was a finalist in the Lisagors that year, too—but didn’t win.)

On the the night of the Reader 25th anniversary party, my friend Vicki Quade, a renowned writer and playwright gave me a compliment I’ll never forget: “Your piece about the judge was just like [the movie] ‘Pulp Fiction.’”

I’m still walking on air.

In honor of the week of the 25th anniversary itself, all the writers were asked to write stories about something to do with the number 25. My friend Rose Spinelli and I had a fun idea—we’d board the #25 bus on Cermak; and she’d sit on one side and I’d sit in the other during the whole route and we’d write twin stories, to be published side by side. Alison True didn’t like the result. And sent us back to the drawing board.

I was a City of Chicago prosecutor, as well as a journalist at the time and I had access to all the police star numbers and the names and whereabouts of all the cops. So I called Miguel Flores, Officer 2525 and asked if I could do a ride-a-long. The commander at the Wood Street Station said sure—after all, I was a prosecutor! And I got the story of my life. Everything happened that night, including a murder—and Flores became a lifelong friend.

I had gone to law school in 1991, to embark on a new career. I thought I would never write again. But during the first week, I said one night over dinner to my husband Paul, “You wouldn’t believe what goes on in these classrooms, what idiotic things these teachers do and say and the way they say it. I blabbed on and on about the dressing down the students were getting, including me.” (Continued on page 20)

Bonnie McGrath
Visit my blog: www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/
One South Loop

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 maintaining a socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhood. A key to this is developing strong relationships with key city officials to ensure they respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community.

We understand the South Loop to be one community from Jackson Blvd to the Stevenson Expressway and the Lakeshore to the River. We have worked for a quarter century to broaden and deepen the sense of community across our geography.

The City of Chicago is in the midst of re-districting its 50 wards. Several proposals or “maps” have emerged during this process – with dramatically different treatments of the South Loop. The Rules Committee map splits the South Loop among six proposed wards. The map presented by the City Council’s Latino Caucus splits the South Loop among four proposed wards. The map developed by the Advisory Redistricting Commission would include all of the South Loop in one proposed ward.

South Loop Neighbors strongly supports including all of the South Loop in one ward, no matter which overall map finally addresses other ward boundary concerns across Chicago. We believe that this would be central to “developing strong relationships that respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community.”

Roger Marsh, South Loop Neighbors Board
Info@SouthLoopNeighbors.org
Editor’s Letter: January, 2022
January 7, 2022 by Brian Hieggelke

Opening night at “The Misanthrope” at Court Theatre in May 2013 and I was in the lobby with Newcity’s then-theater editor, Johnny Oleksinski, when he introduced me to the photographer Joe Mazza. Joe pounces with energy and it did not take me long to crack a big smile. That was all Joe needed. “Oh my God,” he exclaimed. “Your wrinkles! You have the greatest smile wrinkles! I want to photograph your wrinkles!” Not especially thrilled at any recognition of my aging, it was, needless to say, a strange but amusing encounter. I chalked the conversation up to lobby chatter, the kind of thing that gets said in the moment and forgotten the next moment. A few weeks later, I got a Facebook message from Joe. One of his “wrinkle shots” would become my headshot, and soon we were collaborating on the first-ever photo shoot for the Players 50. Fifteen actors, dancers, directors and comedians showed up at the Music Box Theatre for that first shoot, and when we saw the results, we knew we were on to something special.

Eight years later, we’re bundled up in Mazza’s North Side studio on a December afternoon. He’s keeping fans on and the double doors wide open in order to provide maximum ventilation due to the pandemic and it’s chilly both inside and out. But Joe’s far from cold. He roars approval when anyone arrives; he genuinely sees beauty in every human he encounters and lets them know it. He loves days like this. And he loves the word “fuck” as an exclamation of joy and wonder, shouted, ideally in machine-gun repetition. Also an actor and puppeteer, he’s all of this during a photo shoot, coaxing smiles and performance out of even the most reserved person. None of his first-time subjects have ever been at anything quite like a Joe Mazza photo shoot.

This is Joe’s thirty-second “Leaders of Chicago Culture” photoshoot for Newcity since that night we met. For the first few years, he shot all seven of our lists each year, from the Art 50 to the Music 45, but these days, he sticks to his first love, the world of theater, dance, opera and comedy. And the Players love him, too, often saying that a highlight of making this list is getting a Joe Mazza photo. This year, forty-nine out of fifty made their way to his studio.

We did not publish a Players list in 2021 due to the start of the ongoing pandemic. We’refreshening it up with this return with a new approach to the cover. Joe Mazza’s magic is still front-and-center, but art director Dan Streeting has added a bit of his alchemy as well. And it’s a bit different inside as well; we’ve arranged our Players by category rather than number, though their overall rank is still listed. Let us know what you think.

BRIAN HIEGGELKE

IN THIS ISSUE

Work In Progress
How Woman Made Gallery is overhauling after unraveling

Players of the Moment
Jon Carr and Parisa Jalili of The Second City

The Players 50
These folks never stop performing for Chicago
And so much more...

Look for Newcity’s January 2022 print edition at over 300 Chicago-area locations this week or subscribe to the print edition at Newcityshop.com.

Newcity newcity.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.
Speakers Series: Author Night

Social hour 6-7 pm (Purchase your own dinner and drinks.) Panel discussion: 7-8 pm In person- Half Sour. Also by Zoom. Beth Finke, Writing Out Loud Amy Bizzarri, 111 Places in Chicago that You Must Not Miss Sylvester Boyd, The Road from Money Greg Borzo, Chicago’s Fabulous Fountains

Time & Location
Feb 02, 2022, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM CST
Chicago, 755 S Clark St, Chicago, IL 60605, USA

About the event
Join us and hear from four local authors:
Beth Finke, Writing Out Loud
Amy Bizzarri, 111 Places in Chicago that You Must Not Miss
Sylvester Boyd, The Road from Money
Greg Borzo, Chicago’s Fabulous Fountains

Amy Bizzarri has written four books focused on Chicago history, but her experiences don’t stop there. She’s a teacher, tour guide and certified wine expert. She lived in Rome for five years and has hosted radio and TV segments. Oh, yes, her great, great grandparents met in Chicago the night of the Great Fire!

Beth Finke is an accomplished author, teacher and columnist, familiar to many South Loop residents because she’s a regular contributor to the Dearborn Express, our local online newspaper. She teaches memoir writing, is an NPR commentator and moderates a blog for Easterseals’ National Headquarters.

Sylvester Boyd Jr. was born in Chicago and in 1981 founded one of the largest minority owned advertising specialty companies in southwest Michigan, selling products to major corporations, businesses, colleges and universities. He has worked as a movie extra, motivational speaker and substitute teacher for CPS.

Greg Borzo has written several books about Chicago history, including Chicago’s Fabulous Fountain, which features the Printers Row Park Fountain -- a water toser that currently being renovated. He’s also a tour guide, pickleball player, avid cyclist and member of the South Loop Neighbors’ board.

The Shedd Aquarium Has Free Days This Week. Here’s The Complete Schedule

Free days for Illinoisans start Thursday and run through Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Reservations are required.

Block Club Chicago Staff
Jan 10, 2022

The Shedd Aquarium is free for Illinois residents during several days in January and February. Provided

DOWNTOWN — Illinoisans can visit the penguins, dolphins, otters and other sea creatures at the Shedd Aquarium for free starting Thursday.

The museum, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive, is closed for maintenance Tuesday and Wednesday, but it will have free days Thursday to Jan. 17.

The Shedd is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Friday and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the museum will be open 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

The Shedd also will have free admission days Feb. 7-11 and Feb. 14-18. It will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. those days.

Advance reservations are required. You can book them online or over the phone by calling 312-939-2438. There is a $3 processing fee for online reservations. Capacity is limited, and no walk-up tickets will be available.

Visitors must provide proof of residency at the museum via a valid Illinois state ID or driver’s license to get free admission. Find out more here.

Proof of vaccination is required for everyone 5 and older, and visitors 16 and older must also show a photo ID that matches their vaccine cards. Masks are required for everyone older than 2. For more information, click here.

Subscribe to Block Club Chicago, an independent, 501(c)(3), journalist-run newsroom. Every dime we make funds reporting from Chicago’s neighborhoods.

Click here to support Block Club with a tax-deductible donation.

https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/01/10/the-shedd-aquarium-has-free-days-this-week-heres-the-complete-schedule/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=86d9c3306d-
Uh-oh. When I home-tested positive for Covid after a few casual lunches with different friends over the holidays, I knew I had to tell them about my infection. I had accumulated four Covid home tests to use between Christmas and New Years and self-tested before each gathering of five to seven people—not exactly a crowd, but I worried. After a rousing lunch of laughs and stories at the History Museum atrium Cafe, I went home and used my last home test. Gulp. Positive.

Immobilization glued me to my bed. What do I do? The slight cough and runny nose I’d had for a few days was seasonal allergies, according to the doctor. One friend told me the self-tests are not accurate. Really? Is she right? Is the CDC wrong? How do I report it? Do I tell people? Will they panic? Am I responsible if they get it? Will they blame me?

Fortunately I wasn’t with the friends who panic, blame, and generally indulge in open disapproval and silent scorn. That crowd is busy interrogating their other friends with positive Covid tests: Where did you get it? Who were you with? Were they wearing masks? Were you? Were they boosted?

There are so many cases of Covid now that it’s impossible to trace the source of who, what, where, how, when. Last week people talked about their friends and relatives having Covid. This week they’re talking about themselves having it.

My course of action was 1) text Mark with the news and ask if he’d walk the dog for two days. Two days. That’s what I gave myself to be symptom-free. I was right. And really, how much dog-walking can you ask of your friends in the first snowstorm of the winter? 2) Turn on the kitchen exhaust fan to move the Covid air out. 3) Wipe all the surfaces with bleach, and 4) close myself off in the bedroom with Tylenol, electrolytes and Kleenex. Mark ran in and out with Henry. No lingering. No chit-chat.

The Northwestern Medicine patient portal has no apparent section for reporting Covid. I wrote my doctor through the online messaging system (who reads those?) “I tested positive for Covid. What should I do?” Twenty-four hours later my symptoms had subsided. I’d read the CDC stuff and thought I knew all I had to know. But no. Northwestern has a lengthy standard reply, some of which surprised me:

Retesting is not recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) because you may continue to test positive for three months or more without being contagious to others.

What? For the first time in almost two years, the weight I didn’t know was so heavy, lifted from my mind, body and soul! No more frantically scouring shelves for Covid tests? No more fear of infection, the ER, hospital, death? No more worry that I might give it to you!

It’s like June 2021!

by Regan BurkeIn That Number: One Woman’s March From the Streets of Protest to the Halls of Power (And Beyond)

Available at Sandmeyer’s Book Store and other sources.

Regan Burke’s new book, "In That Number" is a 2021 finalist for Chicago Writers Association non-fiction Book of the Year. Regan’s brief memoirs and personal essays appear in the Christian Science Monitor, Sun Magazine, Chicago History Museum "In This Together" Project, City Creatures, Safe ‘n Sound, Easter Seals Blog. Chaleur, Rise Up Review, Bird Garden’s Murder of Writers and Writing Out Loud. She lives on Potawatomi land in downtown Chicago. Her main activity is reducing the weight of the here and now. Regan is a member of Beth Finke’s Memoir Writing Class.

Henry, Social Distancing
Apolonia (2201 S. Michigan) - probably the most exciting restaurant to open in the Sloop in the last couple of years - got some viral love for one of their bread dishes (via NBC5):

Gillanders said the restaurant's pastry chef was trying to make a focaccia to capitalize on the trend, but they wanted to make it different.

"The deep fry became this thing. We threw a dough ball into it, it just ballooned up," he said.

The restaurant likened the dish to a "savory black truffle doughnut" and said it has since taken off in a way they never expected.

"A lot of people started to cut them open and fill them like a pita and you'd be shocked what people put into those things," he said.

NBC5 has a good overarching video about what they’re doing at the restaurant. It’s early in the morning and I’m hungry for dinner:

http://www.sloopin.com/2022/01/nbc5-highlights-apolonias-viral-bread.html

http://www.sloopin.com/
The Field Museum Is Offering Free Days In January And February. Here’s The Schedule

The free-day tickets cannot be reserved in advance and will only be available on-site to Illinois residents.

Kelly Bauer
Jan 10, 2022

Credit: Kelly Bauer, Block Club

Lights highlight parts of SUE’s skeleton while a video plays talking about individual parts of the dinosaur’s body.

DOWNTOWN — The Field Museum is offering free days for Illinois residents Wednesdays in January and February.

The free-day tickets cannot be reserved in advance and will only be available on-site to Illinois residents, according to a Field news release. People will need to show proof of residency, like a state ID, for the deal.

The free days schedule:

- Jan. 12
- Jan. 19
- Jan. 26
- Feb. 2
- Feb. 9
- Feb. 16
- Feb. 23

The museum also offers $3-per-person admission on all days for families who qualify for state food assistance, according to the Field. That offer is available for up to six people per qualifying family.

Everyone 5 and older who visits the Field Museum must provide proof of vaccination. People 16 and older must also provide a valid photo ID.

More information about the free days is available online.

https://blockclubchicago.org/

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:

thedearbornexpress@gmail.com

Dearbornexpress.net/

Brownies
With walnuts
Or Plain 24.99 Dozen

https://notjustcookies.com/

NJC
NOT JUST COOKIES
WHOLESALE BAKERY

Click here to visit our website
Shedd Aquarium Embarks on $500 Million Renovation Called the "Centennial Commitment"

The Shedd Aquarium is awesome and it looks like it’s going to be getting even better (via Chicago Tribune):

The Shedd Aquarium houses a remarkable creature called an archerfish that spits water 3 feet into the air to knock insects off trees into the water for dinner.

Right now, the archerfish swims in an aquarium with a label displaying its name. That’s it.

But soon, visitors will be able to see the fish actually do its thing — spitting at a tree to dislodge crickets for a meal.

Interactive experiences like this inspire the public to care more about the fish and its habitat, according to Bridget Coughlin, president and CEO of the Shedd Aquarium.

This connection between humans experiencing wild animals and being inspired to conserve is the driving force behind the aquarium’s new $500 million project, an eight-year vision called the Centennial Commitment.

Connecting people to nature will involve creating new aquarium galleries along with immersive experiences and programs.

Read the rest of the story by clicking below.

http://www.sloopin.com/2022/01/shedd-aquarium-embarks-on-500-million.html

http://www.sloopin.com/
Too Good To Go app transforms Chicago’s food waste into cheap takeout

By Amina Sergazina, Staff Reporter
December 15, 2021

Saving money on takeout while helping reduce food waste sounds too good to be true, but the app Too Good To Go does exactly that.

The Too Good To Go app launched in Chicago this summer and has already saved more than 26,000 meals destined for the trash at more than 320 restaurants in the city.

That is approximately the same carbon footprint as 227 flights from Chicago to New York, according to Allie Sale, public relations specialist for Too Good To Go.

The app originally was founded in Denmark in 2016 and now is operating in 17 countries.

According to Claire Oliverson, the U.S. head of marketing for Too Good to Go, app users can buy a surprise bag that is filled with fresh food or drinks that the restaurant was not able to sell that day. Usually, prices range from $3.99 to $5.99 per bag filled with food worth three to four times more than the price. Too Good To Go is a B Corporation, meaning it balances profit and purpose, and receives a flat fee of $1.79 per surprise bag bought.

Because the surprise bags are made up of whatever is left at the end of the day, there are currently no options to address dietary restrictions.

Pokiology, a poke restaurant at 1220 W. Taylor St., was able to cut 90% of their food waste using Too Good To Go, according to Tyler Shields, the restaurant manager. A poke (pronounced poh-kay) restaurant serves meals in a bowl with a variety of options including rice, proteins and colorful sauces.

Shields said the restaurant used to throw away a half to a whole liter of rice per day. Another problem was the raw fish that is cut in the morning and has to be used by the end of the day for health purposes.

“We didn’t really have much of a plan to deal with food waste before “Too To Good To Go’ approached us,” Shields said. “All of that [food] we were throwing out, and now we’re able to make nice healthy bowls for people and they can come in and take it home.”

According to the FoodPrint website, in one year U.S. restaurants generate between 22 to 33 billion pounds of food waste.

Upton’s Naturals, a natural food company that focuses on meat alternatives and vegan values, owns Liberation Donuts shop, 2054 W. Grand Ave., which opened a year ago and sells handmade vegan donuts. Natalie Slater, marketing director at Upton’s Naturals, said the shop tried to fight food waste by tracking what product they waste the most and encouraging employees to take leftovers home.

“Every time we have anything left over we post it on Too Good To Go and it always gets picked by somebody,” Slater said. “I don’t think we’ve ever posted that we had something available and not found somebody who wanted it.”

Slater said Liberation Donuts used to waste from half a dozen to three dozen donuts daily but now their waste is almost zero.

 “[Food waste] is such a global problem and it’s a really modern problem; we want ease, and choice, and convenience, and we want abundance,” Oliverson said.

“I think that we need to rethink our relationship with food and its value.”


"Save the Fountain" at Printers Row Park

Fountains beautify cities and make them more livable, peaceful, and inviting. They soften the edges of the steel and concrete, and they help the passersby slow down the hustle and bustle of their busy lives.

The Printers Row Park Advisory Council (PAC) needs your help! Almost a quarter of a century old, the Fountain at Printers Row Park is in serious need of restoration, above and below ground. Help us replace its colored enamel reliefs and polish its bronze highlights, upgrade its lighting, repair its pump and pipes so that this unique civic treasure can once again gush forth with its original energy and spirit.

In total, we need to raise $110,000 to complete the restoration by the spring of 2022. We requested and are awaiting approval from the Chicago Park District for $35,000 towards the project. Our 4th Ward Alderperson, Sophia King, has not only agreed to provide $35,000 towards the restoration but has also agreed to match dollar-for-dollar up to $10,000 in donations that we receive!

That leaves Printers Row PAC to raise $40,000! Please contribute whatever you can to support the South Loop community in bringing the Fountain at Printers Row Park back to its original glory! Visit the fountain before and after the restoration so that you can appreciate the significance of this project.

Contact us: printersrowpac@gmail.com

https://columbiachronicle.com/
2022 Brings New Laws To Illinois: Here’s What You Need To Know

From a ban on hair discrimination to new rules about getting takeout, 2022 laws will change how Chicagoans eat at restaurants, how they’re educated and more.

Pascal Sabino, Mina Bloom, and Block Club Chicago Staff

7:45 AM CST on Dec 30, 2021

Gus ”Jett” Hawkins in 2021. After Jett’s West Side school banned him from wearing braids, his mom led a successful campaign to ban hair discrimination in Illinois schools. Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

CHICAGO — A slate of new city, county and state laws in 2022 will affect education, criminal justice, deportation and eating out for Chicagoans.

Schools no longer can crack down on nonwhite hairstyles, and they must do more to protect children from sexual misconduct. Chicago restaurants must stop offering pop as a default drink for kids meals and limit how much single-use plastics they give to customers ordering takeout.

Here’s a closer look at 2022’s new laws:

Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago
Jett Hawkins poses for a portrait, donning his hair in braids, in his family’s Douglas home on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

Ban On Hair Discrimination

When 4-year-old Jett Hawkins came to his West Side school in March sporting braids, administrators told his mother the hairstyle violated a policy that banned several Black hairstyles, including locs, braids and cornrows on boys.

Jett’s mother, Ida Nelson, pushed back, saying the experience of “policing Black children’s hair” can impact a child’s mental health, self-esteem and confidence. Such policies also encourage Black people “to assimilate to fit in with white culture and discard their history and their Black culture,” Nelson said.

The story caught the attention of state Sen. Mike Simmons — who keeps his hair in long, freeform locs — who drafted the bill with the Illinois State Board of Education.

The law requires the state board to complete a review of school handbooks and policies to ensure they don’t single out and ban Black hairstyles like cornrows, locs and braids. The law also directs the state board to produce educational resources for schools about hair discrimination, and the histories behind protective hairstyles Black people often use.

Jett and his mom were on hand when Gov. JB Pritzker signed the Jett Hawkins’ Law in August. It goes into effect Jan. 1.

Mental Health Days For Public School Students

With education upended for kids during the pandemic, public school students will be allowed mental health days for the first time.

Starting in January, students 7-17 years old can take up to five mental health or behavioral days off per school year, with no doctor’s note required.

The law, sponsored by state Sen. Robert Martwick, was signed by the governor in October.

“Mental health challenges have risen dramatically,” Martwick said in a statement. “We need to ensure that our teachers and administrators have every tool they need to identify students who are suffering and ensure those students get the resources they need.”

Ban On Plasticware At Restaurants

Starting in mid-January, Chicago restaurants can only give customers plasticware, napkins and similar items by request.

The city ordinance, passed in September, bans restaurants from providing single-use utensils, stirrers, toothpicks, napkins, cup sleeves and disposable plates in most cases.

Drive-thrus, airports and charity food giveaways would be exempt. The ordinance does not include straws, cup lids or takeout containers, and it does not apply to “self-service stations,” where customers can grab their own napkins or condiments.

The ordinance is part of an effort to reduce waste of single-use plastics. Alderpeople who supported the final version of the law acknowledged it doesn’t go far enough, but said “small, incremental change” is needed now without overburdening restaurant owners.

Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago
The Cook County Department of Corrections in the Little Village neighborhood on April 11, 2020.

Phase Out Of Cash Bail

Portions of the Pretrial Fairness Act go into effect Jan. 1. While cash bail itself won’t go away until 2023, other parts of the law will expand the rights of people incarcerated in their homes on electronic monitoring.

Those assigned house arrest as a condition of release will be allowed to leave their homes to perform essential tasks and receive regular reviews, allowing the court to evaluate whether they need to remain on electronic monitoring.

Advocates long have argued that the cash bail system penalizes low-income defendants who have been approved to be released on bond but stay in jail because they cannot afford to pay. When the full law goes into effect in 2023, it will make it easier for defendants to help with their defense and support their families and communities, while still giving judges latitude to jail someone they think poses a threat to the public.

“Being poor is not a crime, end of story,” said state Sen. Robert Peters, who sponsored the legislation. “Folks who have the means to cover their bail don’t spend a minute in jail, while others could be locked up for weeks or even months before their trial begins. This is not a just or equitable system.”

Continued on next page
As cash bail is removed, some neighborhood groups have mobilized to provide social services to people released from jail and awaiting trial.

Credit: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

Students walk onto the football field at CPS Marine Leadership Academy, 1920 N. Hamlin Ave., in Logan Square on Nov. 19, 2021.

Faith’s Law To Prevent Grooming, Sex Abuse In Schools

Faith’s Law was in the works for two years before it was signed as a massive sexual abuse scandal unfolded in Chicago Public Schools.

Named for sexual abuse survivor Faith Colson, two parts of the law go into effect in July. First, it bans all forms of grooming in which adults lure children into sexual relationships. Previous state law defined grooming as luring a child into unlawful sex using the internet. Now, that definition has been expanded to include in-person interaction and written communication.

The law also requires the state offer educator training “on the physical and mental health needs of students, student safety, educator ethics, professional conduct, and other topics that address the well-being of students and improve the academic and social-emotional outcomes of students” this year.

The law was finalized in December amid the scandal at Marine Leadership Academy, 1920 N. Hamlin Ave. Investigators uncovered multiple instances of grooming, but CPS leaders said state law didn’t allow criminal charges because no sexual contact occurred with students until they were legal adults.

Also under Faith’s Law, the Illinois State Board of Education is required to create a statewide resource guide for parents, “a centralized source of assistance and provide resources available to the parent or guardian of a student who is or may be the victim of sexual abuse,” according to the governor’s office. That must be complete by mid-2023.

Credit: Darryl Holliday/DNAinfo

An immigration rally in Chicago.

Legal Representation For Non-Citizens In Deportation Cases

Starting in January, the Cook County Public Defenders Office can represent non-citizens in deportation cases under the Defenders For All Act.

The Defenders for All coalition — a group of more than 40 organizations and community groups — pushed for the law and an immigration unit within the Public Defender’s Office dedicated to these cases.

Cook County is the third jurisdiction, after San Francisco and Alameda County, California, to offer representation to immigrants facing deportation. The law moves Cook County closer to creating a more “welcoming place for everyone to call home,” county board President Toni Preckwinkle said.

“We know individuals who go to immigration court without a lawyer are far more likely to get a worse outcome. Not because of some fact in their case, but solely because they don’t have a lawyer. ... We want to change that,” Public Defender Sharrone Mitchell said.

A car dons decorations for Juneteenth during the Juneteenth Celebration ReBuild Black Wall Street in Washington Park on Friday, June 19, 2020. | Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

Juneteenth

The celebration of the effective end of slavery is now a paid state holiday.

Juneteenth is celebrated June 19 to commemorate the day in 1865 when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to free all enslaved people two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Slavery was abolished through the 13th Amendment in December 1865.

The holiday will be a paid day off for state workers and public education professionals, but only when June 19 falls on a weekday. That means the first paid holiday for Juneteenth will be in 2023.

President Joe Biden also made Juneteenth a federal holiday. After initially ruling it out as too expensive, Mayor Lori Lightfoot reversed course and declared this year Juneteenth would be an official city holiday, as well.

Restaurants Must Offer Water, Juice Or Milk Instead Of Pop For Kids’ Meals

The Serve Kids Better Act, which goes into effect Jan 1., is part of a broader effort to cut down on sugary drinks.

The law requires restaurants to offer water, juice or milk with no added sweeteners as the default option for a kids meal.

Click here for the rest of the story https://blockclubchicago.org/2021/12/30/2022-brings-new-laws-to-illinois-heres-what-you-need-to-know/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=af40811cc2-
He said I better write about it. **So I did.** For the Reader. And I almost got expelled. But I stuck with my Reader writing after that. And I was also asked to write for the law school paper, **The Decisive Utterance.** And a few months later, I also became a Sunday columnist for the Chicago Tribune, a position I’d begged for for many years.

Since the Reader began in October, 1971, I dreamed of my writing being in it. The first story I wrote—sometime in the early 80s was about a one-legged local boxer. There was no internet in those days and research took time. I remember reading a book by **New Yorker boxing writer AJ Liebling** to get my head in the right place.

I was very excited when it came out. And Paul ran into Reader editor Pat Clinton who had done the editing and he told Paul I had “it.” I just needed some seasoning. And I’d be really good. (A few years later, Pulitzer Prize winner, Tom Fitzpatrick, a friend of Paul’s, said the same thing about a story I’d written. Sans the seasoning part.

The pay wasn’t bad at the Reader so taking time to do interviews, read up on any subject necessary and doing all the other time-consuming things we had to do before the Internet Age were properly compensated. The stories were constructed carefully and could involve just about anything your imagination and curiosity led to. The lesson of the Reader was that everything could be a story if written right. And the biggest story could be a big dud if not written right. And that was my greatest lesson from those years. And that technique is hard to teach anyone. (I know, I taught journalism for 10 years.)

So these are some of the stories that come to mind when I reminisce about my days writing for the Reader: **A grammar school friend’s mother** who always said she was best friends with Bugsy Siegel’s girlfriend, Virginia Hill; two very famous and renowned, but penniless Russian musicians who were invited by the City of Chicago to visit the Jazz Fest, and I was invited to write about them and they ended up becoming a part of my family for the entire Labor Day Weekend; Susan Anton visiting the Board of Trade; and a mother who filed a lawsuit after her little boy was sucked into a swimming pool drain and died.

The Virginia Hill story and the swimming pool story, incidentally, were poured over by lawyers and the Hill story—after a little editing because I talked about the parents of other nameless grammar school classmates, too—passed muster. But the swimming pool story didn’t. (I wasn’t there—all I had was the mother’s side of the story and her side was all I was interested in writing about. To its credit, the Reader paid me anyway.)

I also wormed my way into late PI attorney Phil Corboy Sr.’s Water Tower condo when Paul was hired to take pictures of **a party he was giving for Simpson lawyer Johnnie Cochran.** Paul’s pictures were so terrific and fit so well with my wry sense of humor that the Reader became such a hit that it was written into the Readers’ space and we laughed a lot about that.

Even though I wrote for the Reader for about a quarter century, there were about three years when it was like a full time job. I was always planning or working on something for about three years in the early 90s. That was my heyday. After which I dribbled down, culminating with Reverend Al in 2008.

And I became part of a scenario that I saw happen to other Reader writers. As I wound down, another writer with his own ideas was on the way. And so, that was that. The Reader became a part of my past. But I didn’t write for it much since my heyday—except for a Sunday columnist that the vast majority of people would never see. Unless people like me wrote it. They were there. And I always saw them. And I still do.

**Bonnie McGrath**

21

Ward04@cityofChicago.org

Web Site
KING4THWARD.COM

Citizen App

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

The popular app Citizen is not always reliable for police information, and we ask that you call the CAPS office at 312-747-5109 for clarification on anything that you may be concerned about.

CPD District Meetings

ADDRESS YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS

Use the CPD's online tool to find your district and beat.

If You See Something, Say Something

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

“If You See Something, Say Something®” is a national campaign that raises public awareness of the indicators of terrorism, terrorism-related crime, and domestic violent extremism, as well as the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement. Informed, alert communities play a critical role in keeping our nation safe. Click here to learn more.

Chicago Police Department Is Hiring

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Do you have a passion for this city and want to give back to your community through service? Apply to join the Chicago Police Department. To apply in advance online click here or just show up and register at any exam ses-

Carjacking Prevention Tips

ADDRESS YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS

There have been several instances of carjackings in our community this year, and while we are working with the Chicago Police Department to keep our neighborhoods safe, we hope that you will take heed of these carjacking prevention tips to keep yourself from being a victim.

2022 4th Ward Menu Planning

4th Ward Capital Improvements

Each year, every ward in the City of Chicago is awarded $1.5 million in “menu” funds to apply towards infrastructure needs in the community. Menu funds are used for resurfacing streets, replacing damaged sidewalks, repairing or the installation of street lighting, park improvements, and a myriad of other infrastructure concerns that contribute to the overall quality of life in the ward. If you have any menu requests, please submit the requests to the infrastructure chair of your community advisory council or to ward04@cityofchicago.org.

Once submitted, your request will be reviewed by one of the six different (Douglas, Grand Boulevard, Kenwood, Hyde Park, North Kenwood Oakland, and the South Loop) community advisory councils in the 4th Ward. The projects will be reviewed by infrastructure committees of each council to determine the need and priority of the request. Once each council has submitted their lists, the Aldermanic Service Office will make the final selection to submit to the City in time for the 1st quarter deadline for the 2022 menu program. To learn about the leadership of each advisory council, please click here. If you would like to understand the geographic location of each community area/advisory council in the 4th Ward, please click here.

Virtual Alderman 'On the Block'

MEET WITH ALDERMAN KING ON ZOOM

More dates will be available soon for Alderman On the Block. To request a meeting with Alderman King, please email ward04@cityofchicago.org with the subject line "AOB Meeting Request" describing your issue to secure an appointment. Call 773-536-8103 for comments, questions or concerns.

311 vs 911—Make the Right Call.

We wanted to share with you a document provided by the City on when to call 911 and when to call 311. 911 is for emergencies that require immediate attention, while 311 is for slightly less urgent matters that still require the authorities. View the complete list for your refer-

ence here.
On New Year’s Eve, 17-year-old becomes the Loop’s 28th shooting victim of 2021

January 1, 2022 CWBChicago Loop

On New Year’s Eve, a 17-year-old girl became the Loop’s 28th and final shooting victim of 2021, wrapping up the bloodiest year for the famed downtown neighborhood in a generation or more.

Police said a man who is “approximately 18 years of age” shot the girl three times in her leg while they were in a hotel room on the 500 block of South Michigan around 10:29 p.m. Witnesses saw police and EMS responding to the Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 South Michigan.

The girl was listed in good condition at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Police arrested the man at the scene and reportedly recovered a firearm from his person. Charges are pending. CPD said the incident appears the man and the girl have a relationship.

Shootings have risen sharply in the downtown area since the start of 2020. Police and local politicians have consistently said that low hotel room rates during the COVID pandemic are drawing people to parties in hotel rooms and on nearby streets. Those gatherings are fueling the rise in violence, according to the officials.

In 2019, three people were shot in three separate incidents in the Loop: One survived a shooting that authorities determined to be self-defense by the shooter; another died in a separate self-defense case; and the third shooting, also fatal, remains unsolved.

Last year, there were 18 shooting victims in the Loop and a total of four murders. City records show that two of the murder victims were shot, another was stabbed, and the fourth was pushed into the path of a CTA train.

In 2021, there were 28 shooting victims in the Loop. One died. The neighborhood also had two fatal stabbings last year.


http://www.cwbchicago.com/
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<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcotics</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Criminal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obscenity</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offence Involving Children</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We used the three "Pre-Covid Years" of 2017, 2018 and 2019 to determine the historic average amount of crime reports for Police Beat 0123. Then we compared that average with the "Covid Years" of 2020 and 2021.

### Total Crime Reports

The average total crime reports for the Pre-Covid years (2017-2019) was 1701
Total 2020 crimes was 1179, a drop of 31%
Total 2021 crimes was 1305, a drop of 23%
We are assuming that these drops in reported crimes were caused by Covid restrictions (beginning in March 2020) making crime victims less available
Note - the drop in reported crimes was less in 2021 than in 2020
The drop in 2021 crimes was less in the second half of the year than the first half

It appears that we are losing the crime reduction "benefit" of Covid restrictions

### Specific Crime Types

Even though overall crime was down 23% in 2021, violent crime was not down. Specific types of crime trended in many different directions
- some crimes types had too few incidents to be statistically significant.
  (Concealed Carry, Interference, Intimidation, Obscenity)
- some property crime types dropped even more than 23%
  (Criminal Trespass, Deceptive Practice, Narcotics)
- many crimes against persons dropped significantly less than 23%
  (Assault, Battery, Damage, Sexual Assault, Robbery)
- some crimes against persons increased dramatically
  (Weapons Violations, Vehicle Hijacking, Sex Offense)

The types of crimes reported in Beat 0123 during 2021 tended to be more "violent" (potential to cause bodily harm)

Statistical Source: Chicago Data Portal Data.CityOfChicago.org
Roger Marsh
Beat 0123 Neighborhood Watch
## Real Estate Transactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$365,000</td>
<td>124 W POLK ST 202</td>
<td>11/24/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
<td>1211 S PRAIRIE AVE 2504</td>
<td>11/30/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$294,000</td>
<td>40 E 9TH ST 1606</td>
<td>11/22/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$344,000</td>
<td>1322 S WABASH AVE 310</td>
<td>12/6/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$212,500</td>
<td>621 S PLYMOUTH CT 808</td>
<td>11/16/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>732 S FINANCIAL PL 315</td>
<td>11/9/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$570,000</td>
<td>1345 S INDIANA PKWY</td>
<td>10/19/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$480,000</td>
<td>100 E 14TH ST 2609</td>
<td>12/1/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$460,000</td>
<td>910 S MICHIGAN AVE 1819</td>
<td>11/5/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$280,000</td>
<td>680 S FEDERAL ST 903</td>
<td>11/16/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$260,000</td>
<td>600 S DEARBORN ST 1503</td>
<td>10/5/21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
901 S. Plymouth Court, Unit 406
3 bed/ 2 baths 1550 Sq Ft
$429,000
Thomas Palmen
@properties
312.543.9380

1422 S State St
3 bed, 2.5 bath, 1800 sq ft
$624,900
Ioannis Floros
Fulton Grace Realty
708.257.5664

711 S Dearborn St #808
2 bed, 2 bath, 1750 sq ft
$625,000
Tommy Choi
Keller Williams
ONEChicago
(512) 263-5600

910 S Michigan Ave
#1606
2 bed, 2 bath, 1800 sq ft
$450,000
Leigh Marcus
@properties
773.830.2158

711 S State St #908
2 bed, 2 bath, 1800 sq ft
$450,000
Joshua Novy
Telequest Corp
773.454.5595

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773.830.2158

1515 S Prairie Ave #1414
2 bed, 2.5 bath, 1500 sq ft
$549,800
Kevin Thornton
Thornton Properties of Chicago INC
312.880.0000

520 S State St #908
2 bed, 2 bath, 1290 sq ft
$395,000
Joshua Novy
Telequest Corp
773.454.5595

1111 S Wabash Ave Ct #2407
2 bed, 1.5 bath, 1177 sq ft
$295,000
Bruce Glazer
@properties
765.914.8199

711 S State St #908
2 bed, 2 bath, 1800 sq ft
$450,000
Joshua Novy
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773.454.5595

1111 S Wabash Ave Ct #2407
2 bed, 1.5 bath, 1177 sq ft
$295,000
Bruce Glazer
@properties
765.914.8199

1307 S Wabash
#704
3 bed, 2 bath
1300 Sq Ft
$374,000
Susan Dickman
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
773-627-8176

1515 S Prairie Ave #1414
2 bed, 2.5 bath, 1500 sq ft
$549,800
Kevin Thornton
Thornton Properties of Chicago INC
312.880.0000

701 S Wells St
#2506
3 bed, 2.5 bath
1652 Sq Ft
$584,900
Susan Wooten
@properties
773.862.0200

520 S State St #908
2 bed, 2 bath, 1290 sq ft
$395,000
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Telequest Corp
773.454.5595