Risk/ Benefit

"We are currently in Florida. The question was/is … What are the risks? It seems reasonable that one could drive to Florida and isolate fairly well. What about hotels? Hotels get it. They have precautions, they have protocol. It’s the hotel guests that may be the problem. As long as you avoid crowds, you should be able to do okay. What about breakfast? We have been surprised at the uncrowded conditions.”

This was my lead paragraph one year ago prior to most of us having been vaccinated. This year, we are back in Florida asking the same questions. Today, we had friends over for lunch. We’re not sure they’re vaccinated. Should we ask them? They express their reluctance to visit elderly friends or relatives who may already have health issues. Heck, WE’RE elderly. We met with seven friends yesterday at a restaurant, a very crowded zany experience. No masks on anybody. We did eat outdoors.

Remember Alfred E. Neuman, from Mad Magazine back in the day? “What me worry?” It’s kinda like that here. Even local health authorities avoid any language that would suggest masking is a good idea. But the people here, even tourists, seem to relish in the idea of “life is normal.” The good ‘ol days are back. Except for employees of restaurants and grocery/drug stores.

We are half way through Black History Month. See page 14. Also, Roger Marsh’s Report on Crime in the South Loop. He dives deep into the stats to give us better perspective on where crime trends are moving.
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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Jazzshowcase.com

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!
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
The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or South Loop Referral Group.

Mondays with Mike:
by mknezo2014 January 24, 2022

Dammit, Janet,
We Love You!

Click on the image to read about the late, great Janet Smith.

A week ago today we learned that a very, very dear friend passed away. Janet Smith, who was also a neighbor, had staved off ovarian cancer for nearly two years. Janet was a tenured professor in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). But that’s just a title. She was a teacher, a mentor, a world-renowned researcher, and an advocate. She was not an ivory tower academic. She was a force of nature. She was 59.

To give you a sense of her broad impact, nearly 400 people attended a Zoom tribute to her yesterday.

I was going to try to tell readers about her in my own words, hoping it would be therapeutic for me. But the enormous scale of her impact (where to start?), the depth of our love for her and her husband, and the freshness of the wound make that impossible.

That may change, but meantime, I invite you to read her official obit from UIC:

https://today.uic.edu/obituary-janet-smith

Janet was also a committed faculty union member: She was President of the UIC United Faculty union. It issued its own statement.

http://uicunitedfaculty.org/uicuf-president-janet-smith-has-passed-away/

And here at the Urban Affairs Association:

https://urbanaffairsassociation.org/2022/01/18/uaa-has-lost-a-respected-and-inspiring-activist-scholar-leader-mentor/

Click on image to see the short clip.

And maybe give a look to this YouTube clip about “battling cancer” from the late comedian Norm Macdonald—who recently died from cancer himself.

I think Janet would have approved.

Sandhill Cranes take flight over the Wheeler Wildlife Preserve in Decatur Alabama.

Above. A 15 foot Alligator suns himself near a pond in Everglades National Park. There are no fences here. Keep a safe distance.

A common site near the south end of Lake Okeechobee is the burning of Sugar Cane debris. Sugar is king here.

Right: A Floating Tiki Hut Bar makes its way across Florida Bay near Islamorada in the Keys.
A journalist contacted me a few months ago. “I’m working on a story about restaurants and accessibility,” she said. “Would you be willing to meet me for an interview?”

Of course I said yes.

We met at our local, Half Sour, and after introducing herself she asked, “Do you want me to tell you what I look like?”

I’m getting that a lot lately. People asking me if I want to know what they look like. More and more people giving panel discussions on Zoom, leading presentations at libraries, introducing themselves at lectures are describing their looks out loud after introducing themselves.

I answered the reporter’s question with a question of my own: Why would I?

“I don’t know,” she said with a nervous chuckle. “I just read on the internet that I should describe my physical appearance when I introduce myself to someone who can’t see.” I hated hearing this. I have no idea where this declaration started, but it sure has sprouted up on a lot of “disability etiquette” lists lately.

Maybe it has something to do with all the Zoom meetings people have been on the past couple of years? Did some disability advocacy organization decide this is a way to “equalize” the experience for people who are blind? The one thing I do know is this: they didn’t ask me for my opinion on the matter!

In the past year or so I’ve attended more and more events (live and virtual) where the speakers or participants are told to “self-describe” themselves before starting their presentations. You know, for the “benefit of people in the audience who have a visual impairment.”

For me? I’d rather not know. Asking people to describe what they look like is awkward. And let’s be real. Can I trust anyone’s self-assessment, anyway?

In Mike’s “Mondays with Mike” post earlier this week he wrote about the passing of our dear friend Janet Smith. Janet’s husband Jim Loellbach worked with University of Illinois Chicago staff and graduate students all last week to set up and present a virtual celebration of Janet’s life this past Sunday. More than 300 Colleagues, students, family and friends zoomed in, and being virtual and all, people living everywhere from Beirut to Hamburg, Miami to Walla Walla Washington could celebrate Janet with us, too.

I felt honored to be one of the dozen attendees asked to give a short presentation at the event. Knowing Janet’s coworkers and grad students were responsible for the technology assured me it’d all be accessible – I’d be able to “mute” and “unmute” using my screen software.

And I was right. It was.

When I sent an email their way the next day to thank them for their technology prowess, one of them responded with an apology. “I am glad you felt the event was accessible,” they wrote. “I was a little concerned about that, wondered if we should have had all the speakers describe themselves first.”

Argh! I’m sorry they felt this way. Self-describing takes time, and I was much more interested in hearing what people at the celebration had to say about Janet than hearing what the people telling the stories think they look like.

During my short presentation about Janet, I mentioned that one advantage of being blind is that you get to walk arm-in-arm with friends a lot. Janet and I walked arm-in-arm everywhere – to the Chicago River, the Chicago Lakefront, Printers Row Park, Millennium Park, nearby restaurants, bars, and the wine shop. Walking arm-in-arm makes it easier to hear each other, and the conversations we had – especially in these past two years – are a gift from Janet to me.

Another advantage of being blind? not knowing what people look like. In the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr., I live in a sensory world where “people cannot be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” I’m left to judge others by what they say. And what they do.

Something about this new emphasis on having people self-describe themselves seems counter-intuitive to efforts to become more diverse. Do I need to know what people look like to judge what it is they are saying? I’d rather have them introduce themselves by saying their name and what it is about them that prompted the event to invite them as a presenter.

Which is exactly what happened at Janet’s celebration Sunday. Tears were shed, yes. We laughed some, too. Friends and colleagues spoke with Italian accents, English accents, Scandinavian accents and in all sorts of American dialects. I suppose we all looked pretty different from each other, but who cares? The one thing we have in common is far more important: our love of — and gratitude for — our friendships with Janet.
Monday, January 31, 2022

**Car Crashes into Snow Plow and Destroys Fountain at Roosevelt and State**

Like many of you we stumbled upon this mess: According to CBS - looks like a car crashed into a city plow and this is part of the destruction:

A car crashed into a city plow truck in the Loop early Saturday morning, according to police. Around 12:45 a.m., the driver in the vehicle while traveling westbound on the 1100 block of South State Street and failed to obey a traffic signal, striking a city plow truck traveling southbound on State Street, causing the plow to jump a curb and hit a large fence.

**Printer's Row Fountain**

**SOUTH LOOP**

Printers Row Fountain, designed by Edward Winhurst in 1999, will be getting a facelift. In support of the ongoing efforts to restore the Printer's Row Fountain, we've been made aware that the Chicago Park District will supply a $10,000 grant for the restoration, and our office will match the $10,000 grant so that this project can move forward. We are very excited to see how this project completed.

From KING4THWARD.COM Newsletter

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**Impact Physical Therapy**

**Valero & Associates, Inc.**

**Marlene P. Valero, CPA, MST**

47 W. Polk Street
Ste. 100-273
Chicago, IL 60605
(773) 592.0472
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http://www.sloopin.com/
Welcome to Sandmeyer's Bookstore!
Independent. Local. Family-owned.
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Sandmeyer's Bookstore has served Chicago's South Loop since 1982, providing quality new books and unbeatable service. A true mom-and-pop shop, Sandmeyer's Bookstore has been family-owned and operated since the beginning.

Come browse our extensive collection of new releases, travel guides and children's books. Whether it's a fresh copy of an old favorite or the latest bestseller, you're always going to find something good at Sandmeyer's!

Me and White Supremacy:
Young Readers’ Edition

Awareness leads to action, and action leads to change. Author Layla Saad presents the young readers edition of her New York Times bestselling book Me and White Supremacy, which teaches readers how to explore and understand racism and white supremacy and how young readers can do their part to help change the world. Saad is joined by writer and artist Kaitlin McGaw of the Grammy-nominated the Alphabet Rockers. This program will be hosted online via Zoom, register for the program here.

More about Me and White Supremacy: Young Readers’ Edition:

American Writers Museum
180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
https://americanwritersmuseum.org/

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Book Review

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

Hidden and Forgotten Black History: The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray (Berkeley 2021)

Richard Greener was the first Black Harvard graduate, the first Black professor in South Carolina, Howard Law School Dean, diplomat, race activist, and one of W.E.B. DuBois’s “Talented Ten.” Like his father, he struggled to support and ultimately abandoned his wife and family. His daughter, Belle Green, who was to become “the most famous librarian in the country,” changed her name— and passed for White. She had neither husband nor offspring. But, instructed and inspired by her father, the newly monikered Belle La Costa Green worked 43 years for banker and Industrialist J.P. Morgan, first as his “personal librarian,” as Director of the Morgan Library. Belle managed and acquired a six-million-dollar collection of paintings, sculptures, rare books, manuscripts and precious objets d’art whose worth today would approximate $1 billion. Morgan trusted this self-taught young librarian, with an eye for art and an encyclopedic knowledge of its history, provenance and value. Belle was the lone woman in a man’s world. She masterfully negotiated for a trove of antiquities “sucked from Europe as by a vacuum cleaner by the limitless power” of Morgan’s depression-proof funds. Belle’s name change from Greener to Green was as swift as her transformation from social naif to society nabob. She lived at her mother’s crowded apartment with her four siblings when first she was hired, studying Italian at the kitchen table. Within a few years, her confidence and her world expanded to London auction houses, Parisian galleries and Veronese cathedrals. Belle famously proclaimed that, although she was a librarian, she “did not dress like one.” Her exquisite gowns at Vanderbilt soirees; red silk scarves tied to her auction paddles; and “great plumed hats” towering over the heads of the gallery owners, were as likely to appear in the New York gossip columns as her successful bids were noted in the Arts section of the Times of London. She spent lavishly, drank prodigiously, slept with married men— “a vivacious, black-haired beauty, who liked to keep her own affairs a mystery.” She ran with suffragists and advocates of free love. But she tolerated sexism and kept her race a secret all her life. The Personal Librarian is a novel; the facts of Belle’s life are plumped by imagining what that secret might have cost her when “passing” was both a crime and a shame. This is Belle’s love story: of art, her family, her long-time paramour, her absent father, her imperious patron, and the public for whom she created the library and, perhaps, sacrificed her identity. Take a page from the Gilded Age. It’s fascinating and thoughtful.

Lorraine Schmall
Dearborn Park
February, 2022

Inside the Enigma
A Cultural Tale of Russia in 1990
by Mel Theobald

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

For complete details, please go to: [www.insidetheenigma.com](http://www.insidetheenigma.com)

Hardcover, 406 pages
For ordering information, email: theobaldart@gmail.com

Gerald de Jaeger
Author of The Million-Dollar Peril
and three other books
I spent the next several days obsessively searching tech companies’ eBay listings for another Galaxy A32 5G. Bids were approaching $200. Buy-it-now prices were higher. Persuading myself that the first $120 pricetag for the same model had been a fluke, I bought a factory-unlocked Galaxy A32 5G for $149.95. The seller, a tech company, offers a 30-day, postage-paid return.

Was it worth it to buy used? A new Galaxy A32 5G costs $279.99. The time I spent was probably worth more than the $130 saved, but I now feel more tech savvy, so it’s a tradeoff.

*****

Along with a new phone, I’ll try out a new wireless carrier.

Mint Mobile had a promotion that was impossible to resist, especially when I saw that many reviewers rank it the number one carrier now. Buy three months of service at $15 a month and get three months free.

I’d been with Republic Wireless from way back when it was regarded as the best deal. Happy with Republic, I didn’t bother to look into whether it remained the best deal over the years. With Mint Mobile I’ll get four gigabytes of data for $15 a month, while I’ve been paying Republic $20 a month for one gigabyte.

I’m ready to take my mind off phones and wireless plans, but I still have to activate the phone when it arrives. Fingers crossed that there aren’t problems.

https://www.chicagonow.com/retired-in-chicago/about/
Wednesday, February 9, 2022

400 Concrete Truck Line-up on Jan 22nd to Pour for 1000M High-rise

This is a bit old, but we still found it interesting (via Chicago Construction News):

McHugh Concrete has completed a nine-hour continuous concrete pour including nearly 4,000 cu. yds. of concrete for the mat slab foundation for 1000M, a 73-story apartment tower at 1000 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago’s South Loop.

This construction milestone completes the foundations under the main tower of 1000M, which will be one of the city’s tallest apartment buildings at 788 feet when it delivers in 2025. McHugh Concrete has poured the concrete for eight of Chicago’s 10 tallest concrete buildings, the company’s public relations agency said in a Jan. 24 statement.

One lane of Michigan Avenue alongside the project was closed on Jan. 22 for the more than 400 concrete trucks delivering concrete to the site, which is across from Grant Park. Sweeper and vacuum trucks mitigated dust and dirt around the perimeter, and flaggers were posted alongside the site for pedestrian and vehicular safety.

Prior to the pour, McHugh Concrete installed 685 tons of steel rebar (about the same weight as 15 Boeing 737-800 airplanes), and general contractor McHugh Construction coordinated below-ground preparatory work, including drilling and socketing caissons to bed-rock approximately 87 feet below ground to support the tower portion of the skyscraper, perimeter sheeting, waterproofing and piping for utilities.

We were out and about that day and can attest to the crazy amount of cement trucks lined up around the site waiting for their turn. Seems like this development finally has some solid momentum (pun intended?!?).

http://www.sloopin.com/
Thirty-six years ago this month we published the first issue of Newcity. All these years later, we’re still learning, still working every day toward an idea of magazine greatness, with goals that continuously move upward.

This anniversary issue is one more step forward, containing most of the parts of what we envision an edition of Newcity should contain: fascinating, unpredictable stories, like Dave Hoekstra’s exploration of the once-famous eco-saboteur called The Fox. Powerful photographic essays, like our collection of John Simmons’ sixties photos. Graphic storytelling, like this issue’s bio-comic about the activist and writer Mike Ervin by Nick Merlock Jackson. Comprehensive coverage of culture.

And original poetry. We were ecstatic and humbled when our last-minute call for poems was answered by the new poet laureate of the State of Illinois, Angela Jackson, who wrote something specifically for this issue.

We took the occasion of our anniversary to articulate our current vision for the magazine, and this manifesto is below.

Newcity magazine is the foundation of what we do. We’ve evolved many times since our inception, but what we’ve become today as a monthly magazine is our most exciting incarnation yet and we are still a long way from where we want to be.

Philosophically, we are grounded in the idea that Chicago is the center of our universe, and that a great city, a great cultural capital, deserves a magazine that stands shoulder-to-shoulder with anything published anywhere. By extension, we are interested in the entire Midwest region, where so many of our arts leaders get their start, but where also so much excellent cultural production takes place, often under the radar.

So what does a magazine like this consist of? We’re committed to excellent journalism and great storytelling, often at a length and a depth increasingly rare in contemporary magazines. We believe in graphic storytelling (i.e. comics) as a singular medium for fiction and memoir alike, and aim to publish original stories each month. And arts and culture remain the centerpiece of all that we do, with feature stories and reviews spanning art, dance, design, film, food & drink, lit, music and theater/performance every month.

We believe a magazine should be a beautiful object in its own right, from the paper it is printed on to the design and photography that fills its pages.

We’re in the process of evolving from strictly complimentary drop-offs around town into a hybrid membership model that will allow us to become sustainable regardless of advertising. And we would love you to give us a try by subscribing. We have very flexible plans—full year or month-to-month commitments—and we crave your feedback on how we are doing. Go to NewcityShop.com to sign up.

Thank you. BRIAN HIEGGELKE

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Closing the Gap
How Black-owned art galleries are shifting the market

The Fox and Friends
Mild-mannered biology teacher by day, superhero eco-saboteur by night

To Make the Camera See What I See
The sixties Chicago photos of John Simmons

Small Acts of Defiance
An oral history of Mike Ervin, in comics

Poetry
Chicago, 2022 And so much more...

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.
Wednesday, March 2nd

Speaker's 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
March 2, 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 Easter-seals’ 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.

January 26, 2022

SLES students place at the January Chess Tournament.

The South Loop Chess Team had a great tournament over the weekend at De La Salle Institute. Nine students competed in 4 different age groups, and the team had one of our best tournament outcomes yet. Several students competed for the very first time, others tied or even improved on their best scores, and for the first time the team received 2 awards! Erik Keller – a veteran of the team – tied for 7th place in his age group and earned a medal, and PJ McAndrew and Martin Uram both competed in their first tournaments ever, taking home second place in the team competition for their age group. We’re very proud of all the players this weekend and hope to have even more kids competing next month.

Pawns, Kindergarten-1st Grade: PJ McAndrew and Martin Uram
Knights, 2nd-3rd Grade: Cesar Rabelo, Lucca Jones and Gabe Campeau
Bishops, 4th-5th Grade: Erik Keller and Ella Uram
Rooks, 6th-8th Grade: Jacob Denton and Isaac Uram

Visit the Chess Team Page for more information on how to join the team.

For full tournament results: https://chicagochessfoundation.org/dls-results-2022

2022 Elections

Click here to learn more. You can find all the information you need about running for your LSC here.
Savings on Admission to the Field Museum

FIELD MUSEUM

Below you will find some of the deals and free days that the Field Museum, located at 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago IL, 60605.

**Chicago Residents:** Residents who live within Chicago city limits can save $6 on the price of admission.

**Illinois Free Admission Days:** On 52 days throughout the year, Illinois residents can enjoy free Basic admission—plus discounted passes to explore a ticketed exhibition or enjoy a 3D movie. Learn more at Fieldmuseum.org/our-events/free-admission-days.

**Upcoming 2022 Free Admission Days are on Wednesdays:**
- February 16th
- February 23rd

**Museums for All**
Families with valid EBT (Link) or WIC cards from any state are eligible for $3-per-person Basic admission (up to six people). Museums for All is made possible by Ford Motor Company.

**Active Military Personnel and Illinois Teachers**
Basic admission is complimentary for active military personnel and Illinois teachers.

**Chicago CityKey**
Receive free Basic admission for one visit during the first year after acquiring your CityKey card. Immediate family members visiting with you also receive free Basic admission.

Learn more at fieldmuseum.org/visit or by calling us at 312-922-9410 (general inquiries) or 312-665-7669 (TTY).
"These buildings tell a story": Bronzerville Heritage Act advances toward reality

U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Chicago) has lived in Bronzeville for 20 years and is proud to call it home. In a Jan. 21 email to the Chronicle, Rush said he is touched by its beauty and historic significance every day.

The Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Act was first introduced in Congress in 2016. After the initial bill failed, it was reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on Feb. 23, 2021 and a Senate hearing was held on Oct. 6, 2021, moving the bill closer to a vote in the House and Senate that could designate the area as a national heritage neighborhood.

"Few places have been as touched by African American culture as the City of Chicago," said Rush, the Act’s lead sponsor in the U.S. House of Representatives, in his email to the Chronicle. "From Ida B. Wells to Nat King Cole, Bronzeville is a birthplace of Black genius — genius that has had a lasting influence on our city, our state, and indeed our entire nation." For the rest of the story click below

https://columbiachronicle.com/these-buildings-tell-a-story-bronzerville-heritage-act-advances-toward-reality

28 Days of Black Excellence
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

UIC launched a podcast series, “28 Days of Black Excellence,” on February 1. It features inspiring stories of Black students, faculty, alumni, and friends in celebration of Black History Month. The podcast leads conversations with luminaries, visionaries, and waymakers about their journeys and what it means to give back to the university and community while creating an impact in Chicago and beyond. Tune in to the podcast on Spotify or Stitcher.

Racism vs. Humanity: Can the Movement Transcend the Moment?
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Join the University of Chicago on Thursday, February 17 from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM for their virtual Black History Month Event "Racism vs. Humanity: Can the Movement Transcend the Moment?" Click here to learn more.

Roosevelt University Hosts All-Star Speakers and Live Demonstrations
ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

This February, Roosevelt University recognizes Black History Month with a series of inspirational events for students, alumni, and the public. Click here to register for some of their events.

Love, Justice, and Looking Toward the Future
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Join the University of Chicago on Wednesday, February 23 from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM for their hybrid event "Love, Justice, and Looking Toward the Future." Click here to learn

CSU Presidential Lecture Series
CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Chicago State University’s Presidential Lecture Series, sponsored by the Office of the President, presents conversations during Black History Month with thought-provoking leaders designed to engage the university and the broader community. Click here to RSVP to attend these discussions.

From KING4THWARD.COM Newsletter
Concerns — And Campaign Plans — Mount As Chicago’s Remap Battle Drags On

Chicago’s once-per-decade fight to redraw its ward boundaries has lasted months and there’s still no agreement, sparking preliminary referendum plans and fears about a costly court battle.

February 3, 2022

Ald. Michelle Harris, 8th, head of the Chicago City Council’s Rules Committee. Don Vincent/The Daily Line

CHICAGO — As Black and Latino politicians continue to struggle for power on the Chicago City Council, the likelihood of a citywide referendum — followed by an expensive and lengthy court battle — grows along with political tensions.

New boundaries for the city’s 50 wards are being redrawn based on the 2020 census, leaving the potential for political winners and losers who could change the city’s political dynamic. They are also planting the seeds for what one powerful alderwoman says could be a $40 million legal fight over the fate of just one seat.

“Forty million dollars is a bunch of money,” said Ald. Michelle Harris, 8th, a member of the Black Caucus and head of the council’s Rules Committee. It “is a citywide facade program, not a citywide legal battle (fund). A fraction of this would give every citizen in Chicago PPE. … Every citizen in Chicago could have one mask free.

“But we’re going to give it to attorneys to fight over the fact that you won’t be able to get one ward?”

While remaps happen every 10 years, this redrawing of council boundaries has the potential to be one of the most significant in recent memory because it is happening at a critical juncture in Chicago’s political history. The decades-old political machine dominated by the Daley family and powerful white aldermen, such as now-indicted Ald. Ed Burke, is slipping away, leaving the decisions this year to have even more potential impact.

“The Latino Caucus is trying to get the power they think they deserve now,” said Dick Simpson, a former alderman and longtime political science professor at the University of Illinois Chicago.

“It’s always easier to go up from a number than to go down,” Simpson added. “The more seats you have now, the better positioned you are for battle” during the next remap fight.

One seat but not two

Every decade, the national census count prompts council members to rejigger the ward map, and a boom over the past decade in the Latino population is at the center of the debate. By contrast, the number of Black residents calling the city home has fallen. The two council caucuses representing Black and Latino residents are digging in their heels.

A group of Latino council members and their allies say the number of wards represented by a majority of voters who identify as Latino should rise to 15 from 13, enough to

(Continued on next page)
match the more than 40,000 additional Latinos living in Chicago compared to 10 years ago.

Most of the city’s Black council members are willing to concede one seat — but not two.

In the middle are the 18 white council members, who expect the number of seats they control to stay the same. The only thing on which all three sides agree is the need for the city’s first-ever ward with a majority of voters of Asian descent.

The two entrenched sides have been bickering over their proposals for months, and if they don’t reach an agreement by mid May, the issue is scheduled to go to the city’s voters in a referendum.

“We’re still continuing to try to negotiate,” said Ald. Gilbert Villegas, 36th, chair of the Latino Caucus. “But a negotiation has to have two sides that are willing to compromise. ... Right now, we feel that compromise has only been one-sided.”

Villegas and others in the caucus insist the census supports their proposed map.

Census figures released in 2020 show the Latino population jumped from 778,862 in 2010 to 819,518, and now comprise a little over 30% of Chicago’s 2.7 million residents, which would equal 15 seats.

The Latino Caucus crafted a map that creates those 15 majority-Latino wards, and its leaders say they won’t budge for anything less.

The alternative is a map crafted by Harris’ Rules Committee, which supports 14 majority-Latino wards, up one from the current map.

Readying for a referendum fight, the Latino Caucus filed its map with the city’s clerk in early December. A third group, the independent Chicago Advisory Redistricting Commission, also submitted its version of a map that creates 15 majority-African American wards, 14 majority-Latino wards, as well as two wards with a Latino population over 45%. That independent map would need the support of 10 aldermen to be part of the referendum question.

Simpson was an adviser to that independent advisory group.

Villegas said it likely would cost more than $100,000 for his side to wage a political campaign to persuade voters. He’s skeptical of the Rules Committee process since Harris’ failed attempt to defeat opponents of her map by lowering the number of votes needed to pass it, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

Harris insists her process is a fair one, and most council members who’ve gone through it have “not been offended.”

Click below for the rest of the story with graphics

https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/02/03/concerns-and-campaign-plans-mount-as-chicago-remap-battle-draggs-on/?utm_source=Pico&utm_campaign=a5408467a8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_01_06_03_09_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b6b84a5cee-a5408467a8-99320627&mc_cid=a5408467a8&mc_eid=e0677f46e4
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.

Get Vaxxed at Home and Get $50 Per Dose

CITY OF CHICAGO

The Chicago Department of Public Health's in-home vaccination program, Protect Chicago At Home, is now open to all Chicago residents age 5 and up. To encourage Chicago residents to take advantage of the program, they are offering a $50 gift card for each dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Call 312-746-4835 to schedule or sign-up here.

Get Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

COVID-19 TESTS

All American households are eligible to order up to 4 free COVID-19 tests online at COVIDTests.gov. These tests will ship within 7-12 days of ordering. Your health insurance company will pay you back for 8 at -home tests per month for each person on the plan. Find out more here.

Click here to read the White House statement. Click here for more information on the program.

COVID-19 Boosters

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID-19 boosters are now available for everyone 16+ at CDPH-sponsored clinics and programs. Click here to learn more.

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.
2021 Crime Increases in Potential Violence

Chicago's Loop and South Loop have experienced a significant reduction in reported crime over the past two years. Unfortunately, “Violent Crime”, those types of crimes that have the most potential to cause injury or death reversed that trend in 2021.

During the “Covid years” of 2020 and 2021, the total number of reported crimes in the Loop and South Loop dropped dramatically as isolation and store/office closings lowered opportunities for such crimes as retail theft, credit card fraud, and pick-pocket. But that drop didn’t protect victims as much from crimes such as Assault, Battery, Criminal Sexual Assault, Homicide, and Robbery. These specific crime types are used by the FBI to compare standardized results from across the country and are identified as Violent Index Crimes.

Compared to the “pre-Covid years” of 2017, 2018, and 2019, total annual crime reports in the Loop and South Loop dropped by 46% in 2020. But Violent Index Crimes only dropped by 31%. From 2020 to 2021, total Loop and South Loop crimes increased by 8%, but Violent Index Crimes increased by 26%.

That increase in Violent Index Crimes was most pronounced in two Police Beats, 131 and 132, which cover from Roosevelt Road to the Stevenson Expressway, a combined 63% increase from 2020 to 2021. The only Police Beat in the 1st Police District that recorded a drop in Violent Index Crimes was a 4% decline in Beat 133, which covers from the Stevenson to 31st Street.

Location Makes a Difference

The 1st Police District covers the Loop and the South Loop down to 31st Street, as well as the portion of the West Loop east of the Kennedy Expressway. It is divided into 11 Police Beats.

The five Violent Index Crimes had differing results across 1st District. Assault reports increased 29% from 2020 to 2021 with the largest increases in Beats 113 (82%) and 132 (70%). The descriptions of where these crimes occurred was quite mixed.

Battery reports, the most common of these violent types, increased 24%. Most of these happened in apartments, residences, hallways and stairs. Battery increased 60% each in Beats 131 and 132.

Criminal Sexual Assault reports increased 60%. Even though these report numbers were smaller (thankfully) than those for Assault, Battery, and Robbery, this was the largest percentage increase. Most of these reports were from hotels and motels along Wacker Drive and down Michigan Ave.

Homicide reports remained at six for both years. In a year when homicides across the city increased dramatically, the 1st District’s 2021 result could be considered good news.

Robbery reports increased 25%, with the highest increases happening in Beats 112 (79%) and 113 (97%), in the heart of the Loop. Only Beat 133 reported a decrease of 17%. These crimes were reported in public locations: streets, sidewalks, and the CTA.

Violence on the CTA

Police presence on the CTA is under the control of the Department’s Transit Unit but is supported by officers from the 1st Police District. The increase in violence on and around the CTA has been noted by many South Loop residents.

Across the 1st District in 2020, Violent Index Crimes at CTA locations dropped only 21% while total CTA crime dropped 54%. In 2021, Violent Index Crime reports at 1st District CTA locations actually increased 23% while total CTA crime continued to decline an additional 12%.

These increases in Violent Index Crime reports were most pronounced on CTA “L” trains, stations, and platforms compared to buses and bus stops or to CTA parking facilities. From 2020 to 2021, “L” reports increased 31%, while bus/bus stop reports decreased 31%.

Most of this increase in Violent Index Crimes at 1st District CTA locations occurred at the “L” stations along the Red Line. The accompanying chart sorts out CTA “L” Violent Index Crime reports from north to south.

Chicago Police, Aldermanic Wards, and many other organizations are working together to address this issue. South Loop residents have joined efforts through organizations such as South Loop Neighbors, 1st District CAPS, Neighborhood Watch Beat 123, and 4th Ward South Loop Community Advisory Council.

Roger Marsh
Roger@SouthLoopNeighbors.com
#1 - 1st District Violent Index Crimes

| Beat 111 | 233 | 264 | 13 | Beat 111 | 65 | 56 | -14 | 130 | 158 | 22 | 4 | 16 | 300 | 0 | 0 | na | 34 | 34 | 0 |
| Beat 112 | 148 | 211 | 43 | Beat 112 | 39 | 62 | 59 | 92 | 119 | 29 | 3 | 5 | 67 | 0 | 0 | na | 14 | 25 | 79 |
| Beat 113 | 151 | 217 | 44 | Beat 113 | 22 | 40 | 82 | 97 | 120 | 24 | 1 | 0 | na | 2 | 0 | na | 29 | 57 | 97 |
| Beat 114 | 142 | 180 | 27 | Beat 114 | 25 | 35 | 40 | 102 | 117 | 15 | 3 | 13 | 333 | 1 | 0 | na | 11 | 15 | 36 |
| Beat 121 | 84 | 107 | 27 | Beat 121 | 17 | 26 | 53 | 45 | 56 | 24 | 2 | 3 | 50 | 0 | 1 | na | 20 | 21 | 5 |
| Beat 122 | 207 | 242 | 17 | Beat 122 | 52 | 70 | 35 | 112 | 125 | 12 | 7 | 6 | -14 | 0 | 1 | na | 36 | 40 | 11 |
| Beat 123 | 297 | 377 | 27 | Beat 123 | 67 | 87 | 30 | 163 | 214 | 31 | 7 | 11 | 57 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 59 | 64 | 8 |
| Beat 124 | 179 | 193 | 8 | Beat 124 | 61 | 65 | 7 | 97 | 102 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 19 | 27 |
| Beat 131 | 230 | 366 | 63 | Beat 131 | 69 | 117 | 70 | 123 | 198 | 61 | 8 | 6 | -25 | 0 | 2 | na | 30 | 43 | 43 |
| Beat 132 | 140 | 220 | 64 | Beat 132 | 34 | 54 | 59 | 85 | 136 | 60 | 3 | 8 | 167 | 1 | 0 | na | 17 | 22 | 29 |
| Beat 133 | 283 | 271 | -4 | Beat 133 | 79 | 73 | -8 | 173 | 172 | -1 | 7 | 6 | -14 | 0 | 0 | na | 24 | 20 | -17 |
| 1st District | 2094 | 2648 | 26 | 1st District | 530 | 685 | 29 | 1219 | 1517 | 24 | 50 | 80 | 60 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 289 | 360 | 25 |

CTA Total Crimes 2017-21

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CTA Violent Index Crimes

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Every year, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) conducts a training needs assessment to determine which topics should be prioritized for training during the next training year. As part of the assessment, CPD is seeking input from the public on which trainings should be prioritized for CPD officers in 2023. This survey is being offered to the public as a mechanism for you to provide anonymous input and feedback to the Chicago Police Department about what training you believe is needed for CPD officers and members.

The survey, which will remain open until Monday, February 28th, 2022, should take no more than 10 minutes. To take the survey, please click here.

We greatly appreciate your participation of this survey.

Roger Marsh’s Crime Comparison Report

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Note: the "uncounted reports" listed above are from west of the Chicago River and are not included in this tabulation of 1st District Violent Index Crimes that occurred in the Loop and South Loop.

Did you know the South Loop Neighborhood Watch - Police Beat 123 has a facebook page?
We do!...and we encourage you to use it!

The South Loop Neighborhood Watch – Police Beat 123 Facebook Page is a crime communication tool intended to enable the rapid sharing of crime alerts and crime prevention news specifically for Police Beat 123. This area is the section of the South Loop that is bordered by Ida B. Wells on the north, Roosevelt Road on the South, the Chicago River on the west and Michigan Avenue on the east.

Link to Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1475398529519963/

Please stay engaged! The safety and security of our neighborhood is everyone's business!
Next CAPS Meeting  Mar 9, 2022
3PM on Zoom

caps.001district@chicagopolice.org

http://home.chicagopolice.org/

1/31/2022  2:20pm  1900 S State
HOMICIDE, apartment Beat 131

2/2/2022  10:05am  1200 S Wabash
STRONG ARM ROBBERY-No weapon Grocery
Store Beat 131

1/28/2022  5:40pm  Roosevelt Collection
STRONG ARM ROBBERY – No Weapon Store Beat 123

1/24/2022  8:30pm  1300 S Michigan Av
CARJACKING on Strett Beat 131

1/21/2022  12:55pm  1200 S Michigan Av
STRONG ARM ROBBERY – No weapon Street Beat 131

1/21/2022  12:40pm  1500 S Michigan Av
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No Weapon Alley Beat 131

1/21/2022  9:30am  1200 S Wabash
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No Weapon Gas Station Beat 131

1/20/2022  2:45pm  1100 S Michigan Av
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No Weapon Street Beat 123

1/20/2022  1:50pm  1300 S Michigan Av
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No Weapon Street Beat 131

1/17/2022  2:05am  1100 S State St
STRONG ARM ROBBERY No Weapon CTA Platform Beat 123

1/14/2022  1:20am  500 S Clark
ARMED ROBBERY Sidewalk Beat 123

2/2/2022  6:26pm  500 S Dearborn
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Handgun Street Beat 123 CLOSED CASE

1/21/2022  6:30am  800 S Michigan
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT Handgun Hotel Beat 123 CLOSED CASE

Man shot to death in the South Loop

“Anytime somebody loses their life like that, it’s certainly tragic but I really
would like to know more about the circumstances,” local Ald. Pat Dowell
(3rd) told the Sun-Times.

By Sun-Times Wire  Feb 6, 2022, 6:55am CST

A man was found shot to death Sunday morning in the South Loop on the
Near South Side.

Jacek Damien Rudnicki, 44, was found in the street in the first block of East
24th Street about 4:30 a.m. with two gunshot wounds to his lower body,
Chicago police and the Cook County medical examiner’s office said.

He was pronounced dead at the scene, police said.

Circumstances surrounding the shooting were still under investigation, po-
lice said.

“Anytime somebody loses their life like that, it’s certainly tragic but I really
would like to know more about the circumstances,” local Ald. Pat Dowell
(3rd) told the Sun-Times.

No one was in custody.

South Loop murder victim’s Mercedes was taken, pointing to carjacking as a possible motive: source

February 6, 2022 CWBChicago South Loop

Chicago police have determined that a Mercedes SUV belonging to a 44-year
-old man who was found dead on a South Loop street early Sunday is miss-

ering, according to a CPD source.

Cops responded to 24th Street and Michigan Avenue at 5:05 a.m. Sunday
after a passerby found the man lying in the street just west of Michigan.

Police at the scene said the man, who reportedly lives in the area, was found
in the street as if he were about to enter a car. He was lying amidst broken
auto glass, but no vehicle was next to him. He suffered two gunshot wounds
to his back and was pronounced dead at the scene. Officers found shell cas-
ings near his body.

Now, investigators have confirmed that someone took the man’s white 2015
Mercedes GLA, and he may have been killed in a carjacking, the source said.

But the case remains under investigation.

The Cook County medical examiner’s office had not released the victim’s
name by Sunday evening.

http://www.cwbchicago.com/
Real Estate Transactions

$598,000
1416 S STATE ST
12/29/21

$390,000
233 E 13TH ST 1310
12/27/21

$220,000
600 S DEARBORN ST 1104
12/27/21

$239,000
801 S PLYMOUTH CT 902
12/23/21

$430,000
1322 S PRAIRIE AVE 1310
12/22/21

$470,000
1322 S WABASH AVE PH2
12/17/21

$225,000
899 S PLYMOUTH CT 903
12/17/21

$350,000
547 S CLARK ST 903
12/14/21

$290,000
1400 S MICHIGAN AVE 1607
12/14/21

$155,000
40 E 9TH ST 317
12/13/21

$427,500
1246 S FEDERAL ST A
12/9/21

$347,500
1235 S PRAIRIE AVE 3508
12/08/21

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Dearborn Street Realty
Tom Feddor,
312.203.3841
tomfeddor@gmail.com
621 S Plymouth Ct #409
1 bed, 1 bath, 1008 sq ft
$249,000
An-An Ku
Urban Living Properties, LLC
(630) 715-7392

40 E 9th St #1301
2 bed, 2 bath, 1500 sq ft
$300,000
Ali Arciniega
Chicago Real Estate Artists LLC
(312) 585-7123

1305 S Michigan Ave #1204
2 bed, 2 bath, 1400 sq ft
$425,000
Kelsey Mayher
Jameson Sotheby's Int'l Realty
+1 708.205.6340

1250 S Indiana Ave #101
2 bed, 2 bath, 1100 sq ft
$450,000
Jessica Smith
Compass
989-450-8448

1111 S Wabash Ave Ct #811
2 bed, 2 bath, 1200 sq ft
$359,000
Timothy Rhoten
Red Carpet Investment Group Inc
(312) 545-2443

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2 bed, 2.5 bath, 1328 SF
$289,900
Chih-Hao Yang
Fulton Grace Realty
217-819-8009

3913 N Mozart
2 bed/ 2 bath  3916 Sq Ft
$625,000
Anne Rosen
Keller Williams
312.545.7148

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$289,900
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217-819-8009

901 S Plymouth Ct #1603
3 bed/ 2 bath  1550 Sq Ft
$425,000
Terri Buseman • RE/MAX Premier
(312) 208-5166

1143 S Plymouth Court #301
3 bed/ 2 bath  1550 Sq Ft
$368,500
Rafael Murillo • Compass
312-375-4199