

GAZETTE

CHICAGO

January 5, 2018

Vol. 35, No. 9

INSIDE



Bernie and Esther Wong leave rich legacy of service to Chinatown community. See page 7.



Part time faculty at Columbia College Chicago express their concern regarding fair wages. See page 10.



Pilsen Alliance disavows S.K.Y. confrontation; meeting follows. See page 14.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

West Loop businesses and residents call for range of transportation improvements. See page 3.

Gazette Chicago looks back at 2017's busy news coverage. See "Year in Review" on page 18.

Father Time offers wise counsel to Baby New Year as 2018 gets off to a rousing start. See page 26.

City initiative designed to increase affordable housing in parts of community; opponents express skepticism

By Madeline Makoul

As worries over gentrification mount, the City is launching an initiative to increase affordable housing in several neighborhoods.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced the pilot plan will "create 1,000 affordable units," improving upon the 2015 Affordable Requirements Ordinance (ARO), which required that 10% of units in new developments reflect affordable prices.

The pilot increases the number to 20% of units in a Near North Zone that includes parts of the Near West Side and West Loop and 15% in a Near West Zone that includes parts of the West Loop and West Haven, said Peter Strazzabosco, deputy commissioner for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development.

Strazzabosco said officials created the new requirements in light of community concerns about

affordable housing. The plan, which went into effect on Nov. 1 and will continue until Dec. 2020, took effect as two pilots, the Milwaukee Corridor Pilot on the North Side and the Near North/Near West Pilot.

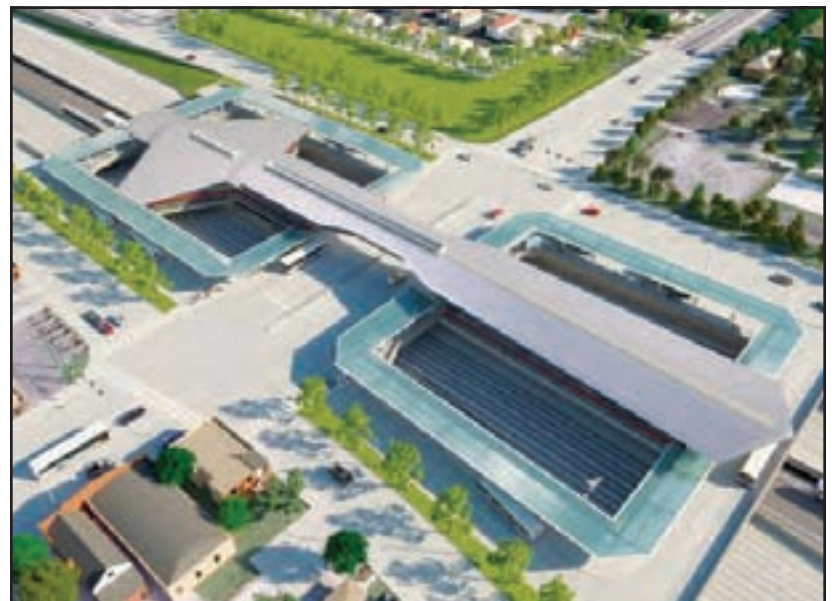
"The goals of the pilot initiative are to mitigate the impacts associated with gentrification, to better protect the interests of the area's economically vulnerable residents from demographic and housing
Continued on page 12

CMAP considers Bridgeport and Canaryville planning

By Rick Romano

A regional planning agency will provide technical assistance to Bridgeport and Canaryville beginning in early 2018 so those neighborhoods have a blueprint for making future improvements.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), an agency created by the State Legislature in 2005, recently selected a joint proposal by the local neighborhoods. It is one of 34 projects in 2017 that CMAP selected from
Continued on page 8



Courtesy CMAP

As part of its Go To 2040 plan, CMAP looks at areas such as public transportation that could improve communities. Above is a rendering of what a refurbished Chicago Transit Authority Red Line station at 35th Street might look like.

Year of Creative Youth will empower artistic Chicago students

By Peter Winslow

The City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) and Mayor Rahm Emanuel have dubbed 2018 the Year of Creative Youth.

The City will invest more than \$2 million to support artistic work of creative youth, provide performance stipends for City of Chicago festivals and partner events, and fund grants for youth arts organizations. Leaders expect this initiative to bolster Chicago's exist-

ing cultural programming and aid educators who foster the development of Chicago's future cultural and economic growth.

As a culminating event, the City will host a new Creative Youth Festival at Millennium Park on Sept. 22; the event will feature performances and displays by young artists in dance, music, theater, spoken word, visual arts, and other artistic endeavors.

DCASE commissioner Mark Kelly noted that, in Chicago, "there are so many great organizations in-

involved with youth, but much of their work is not visible to the city. So now it is the creative art of the youth that needs to be shown in the public realm. We have a mayor who was instrumental in launching the Year of Public Art in 2017, and he has done a lot of great work in planning the Year of Creative Youth."

Teresa Córdova, director of the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a professor of Urban Planning and Policy at UIC's College of Urban Planning
Continued on page 2

Near West/Tri-Taylor • University Village • West Loop • South Loop • West Haven • Bridgeport/Armour Square • Chinatown • Bronzeville • East Pilsen • Heart of Chicago

A free, independent community newspaper since 1983.

Year of Creative Youth will empower artistic Chicago students

Continued from page 1
and Public Affairs, called the project “a marvelous idea,” adding that “When I think of building on young people’s creativity and their sense of innovation, all kinds of things will be possible, including developing economic opportunities.”

Local organizations participating

The National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA), 1852 W. 19th St., is one of six IncentOvate grant recipients for 2018. IncentOvate is a DCASE grant program that invests in local nonprofit organizations with creative youth-focused projects that have an annual adjusted income of more than \$2 million.

The NMMA’s Yollocalli Arts Reach initiative offers free arts and cultural programming to more than 300 youth and young adults annually. Programs include education in public performance, mural painting, radio production, quinceañera aesthetics, and more. Yollocalli also hosts satellite programs, workshops, teen exhibitions, and special events throughout the year.

Barbara Engelskirchen, chief development officer of NMMA, said this is the third grant the museum has received from the IncentOvate program since 2014. “The NMMA understands the value arts and culture can play in a young person’s

life,” said Engelskirchen. “Evidence has shown that the arts can increase the quality of life for young people. Yollocalli Arts Reach provides opportunities for youth and teens to not only explore and make art but also define their culture and find a pathway to their future.”

Another local organization working to finalize the IncentOvate grant process is the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave. Amanda Hicks, executive director of communications, said, “A strengthened network can help open up multiple arteries or pathways between organizations and encourage teens to participate in activities across Chicago that interest them and empower them to ‘own’ their city.”

The Art Institute has doubled its teen attendance since 2016, thanks to a donation from Glenn Swogger and the Redbud Foundation. The donation allowed the museum to create a free admission program for Chicago teens younger than 18.

“The Year of Creative Youth offers a new focal point for the work at the Art Institute that we have always done, and will continue to do, to enthusiastically welcome young people through our doors and provide spaces to make art, build connections with other creative teens, hang out in the museum, work with



Photo courtesy City of Chicago/Phil Dembinski

Chicago youth will participate in photography and other visual arts.

artists and mentors, and discover new possibilities,” Hicks added.

Although not every local youth arts program will receive direct funding, organizations such as the Chicago Children’s Theater (CCT) at 100 S. Racine Ave. support DCASE’s implementation of the new initiative.

“Chicago Children’s Theatre is very excited to see the City recognizing and supporting creative outlets and events focused on the youth of Chicago,” said Patrick Pelz, CCT director of marketing and communications. “We look forward to supporting the Year of Creative Youth by remaining committed to our mission that enriches our community through diverse and signi-

ficant theatrical and educational programming that engages and inspires the child in all of us.”

Since 2005, CCT has been the city’s largest professional theater company that devotes its services to children and young families. In partnership with Chicago Public Schools, CCT provides more than 5,000 free tickets to low-income students each season.

CCT will host a Year of Creative Youth kickoff open to the public from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13.

Marwen, an arts teaching organization at 833 N. Orleans St., and After School Matters, 66 E. Randolph St., which develops cultural activities for teens, are two other local entities that will participate in the Year of Creative Youth.

Officials have not determined many details on the new Creative Youth Festival yet. DCASE commissioner Mark Kelly said, “Imagine thousands of youth on stages and thousands of youth works being showcased. We have a lot of great hard work in front of us, and we are going to make sure youth are involved in the production of the big event. We hope that it becomes an annual event for the city.”

For more about the Year of Creative Youth, call DCASE at (312) 744-3316.

January Specials!

Banana Chips
\$1.99 lb
(Save \$1.00)

Fresh Ground Peanut Butter
\$2.49 lb.
(Save \$1.00)

Whole Large Cashews (Salted or Unsalted)
\$7.49 lb.
(Save \$1.00 lb.)

Since 1982

Milk Chocolate Peanuts or Raisins
\$2.99 lb.
(Save \$1.00 lb.)

Jelly Fruit Slices (Assorted, Cherry, Orange)
\$1.49 lb.
(Save .50)

Over 300 Items to Choose From

Freshly Ground Peanut Butter

Processors and Distributors of Nuts • Chocolates • Speciality Mixes • Candy • Dried Fruit • Seeds • Yogurt

1111 W. 40th Street
(773) 254-7900 ext 815
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (UPS Available)

We also carry a variety of
Sugar Free Candies & Chocolates!

January 31, 2018

West Loop seeks transportation infrastructure improvements

By Eva Hofmann

At a town hall meeting on November 20, West Loop and West Side citizens and business owners called upon Congressman Danny Davis, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and other officials to bring massive government investment to the West Loop and West Side in 2018 totaling at least \$225 million.

The meeting focused on the community's critical need for transportation infrastructure, including building new Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Green Line stations at Damen Avenue and Western Avenue (estimated \$50 million each); CTA Green Line Lake Street reconstruction (\$100 million initial investment); and modernizing the West Side's only Metra station at 360 N. Kedzie Ave. to comply with the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (\$25 million).

"This will bring urgently needed access, jobs, housing, and public safety to the West Side and beyond," said Roger Romanelli, executive director of the Fulton Market Association (FMA). "Our public transit is important, and we're getting massive traffic gridlock."

In addition to Congressman Davis and Mayor Emanuel, officials

in attendance included: Jesse Smart of 27th Ward Alderman Burnett's office; 28th Ward Alderman Jason Ervin; State Representative Melissa Conyears-Ervin; and Cook County Commissioners Richard Boykin and Dennis Deer.

Damen station funding

The meeting succeeded on a couple of fronts, according to Romanelli. "Our community got a timeline from the CTA for construction of the Damen-Lake station," he said.

According to the proposed timetable, workers would build the station by 2020, which is similar to the past timeline for the CTA station at Morgan and Lake. "They announced Morgan in 2009 and had it done in 2012," said Romanelli.

While officials support building the Damen station, they expect to pay for it with the community's tax increment financing (TIF) fund. "The City wants to use \$50 million of that to fund the Damen station," said Charles LeBlanc, a 27th Ward citizen who attended the November meeting.

"The announcement was startling because there is such a high demand for TIF funds to fix local streets and alleys and for expansion,"

Continued on page 4

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

FREE FITNESS WEEK!

January 8-14, 2018



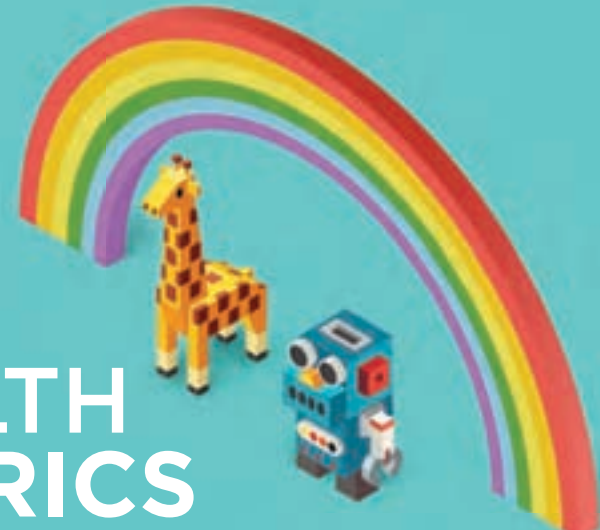
Work out for FREE January 8-14
at any of the Chicago Park District's citywide fitness centers, fitness classes (Adult & Teen fitness classes only) or pools during lap swim (adults only; hours and times vary by park). Advance registration is encouraged. All activities are first come, first served based on availability.

***FREE Water Bottle & Towel**
with a fitness center membership purchase! While supplies last.

For more information about your Chicago Park District visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com, or call 312.742.7529 or 312.747.2001 (TTY).

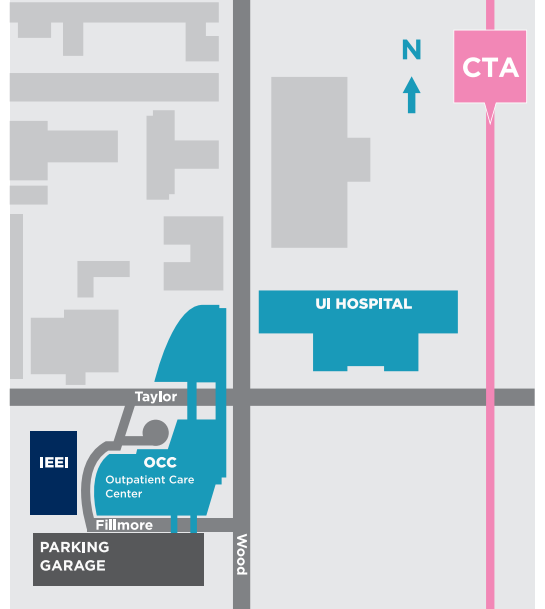
CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT  **MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL**
Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners
Chicago Park District, Michael P. Kelly,
General Superintendent and CEO

Stay connected. #getfitforlife

UI HEALTH PEDIATRICS

Pediatric care every day, for every situation, right in your community



CTA
N ↑
UI HOSPITAL
Taylor
OCC Outpatient Care Center
Fillmore
Wood
PARKING GARAGE

Child & Youth Center - Outpatient & Primary Care
1801 W. Taylor St., Suite 2E
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 8 am - 5 pm
Tuesday: 8 am - 8 pm
Saturday: 8 am - Noon

Children's Hospital University of Illinois (CHUI) at University of Illinois Hospital
1740 W. Taylor St.
24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

Call to make an appointment **312.996.7416** or visit us at Kids.UIHealth.Care

Discounted parking available



West Loop seeks transportation infrastructure improvements

Continued from page 3

said Romanelli. “We haven’t taken an official position in terms of responding this funding proposition—we want the Damen station as soon as possible, but how we fund it is important. Our local property owners should have a big voice on how that money is spent.”

Questions about funding sources occurred with building the Morgan station in 2009, according to Romanelli. In the end, the federal government came up with \$8 million to help pay for it. “It looks like we’re going back to the same kind of rodeo,” he said.

“That Morgan-Lake station was directly responsible for attracting Google’s Chicago headquarters to Fulton Market and helping Google expand,” said Romanelli. “With the CTA station within 600 feet of the building, the City of Chicago on-site parking requirement was slashed by 50%, allowing the developer to renovate the building profitably. Fulton Market Association wants to foster similar economic development around new CTA Damen-Lake and Western-Lake stations.

“If we build those stations at Damen and Western, we will see an explosion of economic development on the West Side, and that’s our goal,” he said.



Photo courtesy Roger Romanelli

Under the Kedzie Avenue station on Lake Street, Roger Romanelli of the FMA recently saw a semi-trailer truck hit the elevated train structure.

Western Avenue el station, Lake Street girder reconfiguration

While FMA works to negotiate funding for the Damen station and ensure officials complete the station according to the proposed timeline, local residents and businesses also seek a station at Western Avenue. “A Green Line Western el stop would spur new jobs, housing, and public safety,” said Romanelli. “Western is Chicago’s busiest north-south arterial, so a CTA station is critical for city-wide

transit. The Western Avenue Green Line station will dramatically reduce traffic in the city. We want that.”

Joining FMA to form a Green Line coalition is the Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce. “There are important things that need to be done in our area, such as moving the girders on Lake Street,” said Chamber President Siri Hibler. “Our residents have had accidents because of those girders. The Department of Transportation has

removed quite a few, but as soon as you get to Garfield Park, those girders remain. Businesses are not able to move products in and out, and some are threatening to leave.”

One such business owner, Ray Carlson, president of Chicago Turnrite Company, 4459 W. Lake St., said, “Operating our business under the CTA Green Line structure is inefficient and dangerous for our employees. The structure does not allow trucks to back safely into our docks, forcing us to unload trucks on the street in oncoming traffic. This serious problem could eventually lead to us relocating our business.”

The Lake Street structure between Talman Ave. (2600 W. Lake St.) and Laramie Ave. (5200 W. Lake St.) dates to 1893 and 1894, a decade before Chicago had much vehicular traffic. As a result, Lake Street vehicles driving eastbound have no escape from vehicles driving westbound (and vice versa) due to the center-lane girders. Side mirrors on vans and trucks are ripped off daily in two-way traffic due to the street’s narrowness.

On November 17, Romanelli witnessed and recorded a 60-foot semi-trailer truck hit the Lake Street structure at the Kedzie-Lake intersection, requiring police and

Continued on page 6

A HEALTHIER TODAY
Rush Generations
 AND A VITAL TOMORROW

Upcoming free programs:

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Wednesday, Jan. 17 • 1 to 3 p.m.
 Come to a panel discussion featuring those who knew Martin Luther King, Jr. They will discuss diversity, U.S. racial equality and the civil rights movement. A light lunch will be served. Space is limited; registration required.

Sexuality and Intimacy as We Age
 Wednesday, Feb. 7 • 1 to 3 p.m.
 Many people want and need to be close to others as they grow older. This includes the desire to continue or regain an active, satisfying sex life, or finding other ways to engage in intimacy. Please join us for a discussion on sexual health.

Call (888) 352-RUSH (7874) to register for these programs.
www.rush.edu/rush-gen

M-50413 12/17

RUSH UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Experience
St. Jerome Catholic School Tradition

Proud Past ~ Promising Future

- All classrooms equipped with interactive whiteboards
- One to one Chromebook program in grades 6, 7 & 8
- Two to one Tablets starting in Pre-K
- Standardized test scores above national average
- Flexible 3 & 4 year old Pre-K program
- Foreign language, art and music
- After School Enrichment Programs

2801 S. Princeton Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60616
(312) 842-7668

Open House
Sunday, January 28
10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Education | Faith | Community | Athletics
www.stjermeschool.net



TURN YOUR EQUITY INTO MORE... MORE SPACE, MORE MODERN, MORE CHOICES

NOW IS THE TIME TO SELL YOUR CONDO AND APPLY
YOUR EQUITY TO A NEW, SPACIOUS, MODERN
UNIVERSITY VILLAGE ROW HOME AT AN UNBEATABLE PRICE.

LATE SPRING/EARLY SUMMER DELIVERY

3 & 4 BEDROOM ROW HOMES

PRICED FROM \$648,900

- Open, spacious multi-level floor plans
- High-end, designer finishes and appointments
- Sophisticated kitchens
- Spa-inspired bathrooms
- Private yards or roof decks (per plan)
- 2-car garages



VISIT OUR SALES CENTER
1413 West Taylor Street

Monday & Friday: 12-6
Saturday & Sunday: 12-5
Or call for an appointment:
312-243-2525

UVRowHomes.com



**Exclusively Marketed by
New West Realty**

University Village Row Homes' policy of continued attention to design and construction requires that all specific designs, specifications, features, amenities, materials and prices are subject to change without notice. Renderings are only artist's impressions and are subject to be changed without notice. ©2017 South Campus Development Team, LLC.

All rights reserved. Dev License # 2469254

West Loop seeks transportation infrastructure improvements

Continued from page 4

community assistance to dislodge the truck. "I've got two more videos of trucks getting smashed on that structure," he said, noting trucks hit it frequently, causing traffic chaos and unnecessary police and truck repair costs.

Department of Transportation representatives attended the November meeting to discuss the CTA structure. "They agreed to take our concerns to the mayor and to look into the issue," said Romanelli.

ADA compliance

Similar to the antiquated Lake Street structure, the West Side's only Metra station at 360 N. Kedzie Avenue was built in a very different era. The station ranks as 100% inaccessible to people with disabilities and does not offer weekend service. Revitalizing this station would provide much needed transportation access to residents and employees as well as tourists coming to the Garfield Park Conservatory.

"Congressman Davis is fully supportive of our plans for the Green Line and Metra stations," said Romanelli. "He would like to see unity on all these issues." Romanelli said that Davis urged the community to lobby Aldermen Burnett and Ervin—as well as state senators, state

representatives, and county commissioners—to make sure they support these upgrades.

"We discussed funding and we would expect to try and have every possible entity, including the Federal government, State government, County government, as well as the City and local government involved in it," Davis said. "We all know what the climate is currently like. We know that finding public resources is not the easiest thing in the world to do, but we also know that if we start planning and keep laying out the benefits that these developments could bring, we're optimistic about making it happen."

Davis noted that the recent passage of the Federal tax bill "will reduce the amount of money that the Federal government will have to work with, because we're going to cut corporate taxes big time. That will take a lot of money out of the treasury, so we will still experience a tremendous deficit. But these things have a way of working their way around, so I'm optimistic."

The plan for the Green Line and Metra "is an ambitious plan and there's a lot of good energy around it," Davis said.

"West Side residents are willing to invest in our community,

and businesses are coming back," said LeBlanc. "But we need government officials to put our tax dollars to work for long neglected improvements like the two CTA stations."

"We know that the West Side is one of the most economically disadvantaged parts of the United States," said Romanelli. "Unfortunately, some of the higher crime rates are in our city and region. We really believe it needs modernization."

"It was a very positive meeting and we are very pleased to be working with the Fulton Market people as well as the residents," Davis concluded.

Cleanup under viaducts

West Loop and Near West Side residents and business also are asking Mayor Emanuel and 27th Ward Alderman Burnett to clean two viaducts at 360 N. Hoyne Ave. and 360 N. Oakley Blvd. to remove massive garbage, stolen shopping carts, stolen garbage cans, and abandoned mattresses.

FMA also wants City officials to clean the viaducts weekly in order to avoid the garbage pileups that have occurred for years.

FMA is working to bring investment westward from Fulton Market to Garfield Park; however,

street conditions like these make employees, residents, and businesses hesitant to invest.

"Voters and taxpayers deserve better service from City officials to keep these viaducts clean every week and to prevent crime," said Romanelli.

In addition to debris under the viaducts, local residents and business owners allege that drug dealing occurs between 5 and 7 p.m. regularly. FMA leaders met with 12th District Police Commander Stephen Chang, who encouraged residents to call 911 or the 12th District Undercover Unit.

For 2018, FMA wants City Hall to earmark \$10 million in Kinzie Corridor Neighborhood Improvement TIF funds to modernize the viaducts and repair local streets, alleys, sidewalks, streetlights, and sewers.

FMA information can be found at <http://fultonmarketchicago.org/>. For more on the Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce, log on to <https://gfpchamberchicago.org/>.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

www.gazettechicago.com



QUEEN SHEBA

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Thank you for your support and warmest wishes
for a happy and healthy 2018!

From
WALTER BURNETT, JR., FAMILY & STAFF

St. Barbara is conveniently located 4 blocks from the Orange Line's Halsted stop. We offer before & after child care for working families.



St. Barbara CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Rooted in Faith. Growing through Education




St. Barbara School has a long tradition of academic excellence. We take pride in our rigorous curriculum and strive to prepare our students for success.

OPEN HOUSE & BOOK FAIR!

You are cordially invited to our School Open House & Book Fair
Sunday, January 28, 2018
10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



DISCOUNT FOR NEW REGISTRATIONS!

2859 S. Throop, Chicago, IL 60608
312-326-6243 www.stbarbaraschool.org

Bernie Wong, Esther Wong benefitted Chinatown community through CASL

By Susan Fong

By responding to the needs of the Chicago's Chinese American residents, the Chinese American Service League (CASL) gained a positive reputation for helping families within Chinatown and forming partnerships within the city and beyond.

Two longtime leaders of CASL, President Bernarda "Bernie" Wong and Executive Director Esther Wong, have retired after working nearly 40 years with the agency they created.

"Bernie had laid the groundwork, but it became too much, so I came on board," said Esther Wong. "Bernie took on the external responsibilities, working with public relations, funding, etc., and I took on the internal responsibilities, i.e. the day-to-day operations—strengthening infrastructure, consolidating departments, and facilitating the move into our new building in 2004."

CASL grew from having a \$32,000 annual budget to one of \$13.5 million and serving 17,000 people annually.

In 1979, Bernie and Esther noted the unmet social service needs of Chinatown and decided to approach United Charities, now Metropolitan Family Services (MFS), for help organizing CASL. Three



Alderman Daniel Solis (25th Ward) Bernie Wong, Esther Wong, and Josina Morita, Metropolitan Water District Commissioner, at an aldermanic event when the City Council passed resolutions honoring CASL leaders.

of CASL's ten co-founders had social service backgrounds, including C.W. Chan, Bernie Wong, and Esther Wong.

"We would've been glad to provide services," said Jerry Erickson, former executive director of United Charities, "but we had no one with Chinese language skills."

The co-founders obtained \$30,000 from United Way and Chicago Community Trust, "so we discussed who would lead, and Bernie's

name came up as the candidate," Erickson said.

"They strong-armed me into taking the position of executive director," Bernie Wong said, laughing. "The others served on the board."

"I took Bernie under my wing, and she was a quick learner," Erickson said. "She was formidable in her mission, assertive, and able to find the support and funding she needed."

Rick Estrada, MFS executive

director said he "met Bernie Wong when we received \$250,000 from Bank of America's New Leadership program, some of which went to Bernie for CASL and some for me to use for Erie House.

"Through the years, we've become a sounding board for each other," Estrada said, "but when she would come and ask for advice I thought 'Why are you coming to me? Shouldn't it be the other way around?'"

Asking for help

"What I learned from Bernie is you're never too smart, never too big, and never too high to ask for help, perspective, or advice," Estrada continued. "To ask for help is a strength, not a weakness. It's now something I try to teach my staff. Then I turn and say to them, 'So now it's your turn to tell me how you do it.'"

Former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley remembers Bernie Wong and CASL well. Daley served as mayor from 1989 through 2011.

Daley said, "Our relationship was forged in our mutual love of Chicago. It was very real – education, public safety and improving general services were top priorities for us both. We believed that getting residents involved

Continued on page 17

*Exceptional care,
close to home.*

Adele Cobbs, MD
Emergency Medicine



New emergency care providers at Mercy Hospital & Medical Center are making a difference in caring for you and your family this winter.



2525 S Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60616
312-567-2000 • www.mercy-chicago.org





Children of Peace Catholic School

A Parent's Testimonial

"Children of Peace felt good and safe when first walked through the doors. I felt comfortable leaving my children there. The teachers truly work towards the mind, body and spirit of each child...My girls have a great community surrounding them. Between the teachers, staff, and students, I feel comfortable knowing that no matter what situation comes their way, the life and spiritual lessons they have learned at Children of Peace have prepared them sufficiently. I couldn't be more grateful."

— Mrs. DeBose, Current Parent

At Children of Peace Catholic School, we provide a faith-based learning environment for our students in the center of the Illinois Medical District and UIC campus in the West Loop of Chicago. For all of our students, we provide:

- Technology rich classrooms enhance a strong curriculum
- Extended care available 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Tuition assistance available to families who qualify

Traditional Program: Preschool-8th Grade
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program: Preschool-8th Grade
Montessorri Program: 3 - 9 years

VISIT US DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
 JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 2, 2017



Visit Us Today!

childrenofpeacechicago.org / 312.243.8186
 1900 W. Taylor Street, Chicago, IL 60612
 Mrs. Carrie Novak, Principal

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to examine Bridgeport, Canaryville improvements

Continued from page 1

80 proposals that the agency received from across northern Illinois. CMAP also began working with Chinatown in 2014.

The latest local project has CMAP working with Bridgeport and Canaryville to "Develop a planning priorities report that promotes sustainable business, retail, and economic development; strengthens local educational and cultural institutions; and builds on area assets including housing stock, access to public transportation, and resident population," according to CMAP.

CMAP's local technical assistance leaders said the neighborhoods are overdue for assistance.

"There hasn't been a lot of community planning" in those areas, "so this is a good time for this to happen," said Noah Boggess, the CMAP project manager who will work directly with Bridgeport and Canaryville. He said each project has a team that first works to build a community steering committee and then to arrange confidential stakeholder interviews with "significant actors" including individuals, nonprofits, and businesses in each community. The project will conclude with a priorities report.

Boggess and CMAP director Steven Ostrander estimate this initial process will take six to eight months, with a full plan in a year.

"We will spell out some key components of the plan with recommendations," Ostrander said. "There might be a very clear project or a focused area that needs to be addressed. The focus could be, for example, a commercial corridor. It all depends on where the conversation leads. We are very open minded."

Ostrander and Boggess said addressing Bridgeport and Canaryville together makes sense because the communities share at least in part similar histories, infrastructure, and population.

Leaders' application

Those ties led to the request for CMAP assistance by 11th District Cook County Commissioner John Daley and 11th Ward Ald. Patrick D. Thompson. Daley's office prepared the application, which emphasized a need for economic development because those neighborhoods are so close to the "economic engine that is the city's downtown region," the application said.

Daley and Thompson also submitted letters of endorsement.

An environment that empowers health.

- ▲ Beautifully renovated facility
- ▲ Exquisite private suites
- ▲ Gourmet dining options
- ▲ Huge therapy gym
- ▲ Therapists on-site 7 days a week
- ▲ In-house dialysis
- ▲ Complimentary Valet Parking
- ▲ The premier clinical destination for short-term rehabilitation

aperion care
INTERNATIONAL

773.927.4200 | 773.904.2358
 4815 S. WESTERN BLVD, CHICAGO, IL 60609
www.aperioncare.com

"I'm always looking for opportunities to assist residents, community groups, and businesses," Daley said, noting the project will position the neighborhoods for the future.

Thompson said, "Constituents from Bridgeport and Canaryville have expressed their concerns about the future vibrancy of their neighborhoods."

In response to the project's approval, Daley said, "We are appreciative of CMAP selecting these neighborhoods. It's always important to get a better understanding of how the community has changed and what can be done to keep making it successful."

"What unites us is strong churches and strong families, so we want to look at opportunities for land use, business development, residential, and transportation," Daley said. "While we are different communities, we have more in common."

Community involvement

The CMAP interview and priority setting process is meant as a prelude—generating local interest and motivation—to each community's hands-on engagement with or without further requested CMAP assistance.

While Bridgeport and Canaryville begin their planning process with CMAP, neighboring Chinatown is working on strategies iden-



Courtesy CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning encourages input as it considers planning for the future of Bridgeport and Canaryville.

tified in a CMAP 2014 Vision Plan that rolled into 2015 strategies.

The CMAP process enhanced an already engaged community, said C.W. Chan, chair of the Coalition for a Better Chinese Community. He noted the number of individuals interviewed during the process rose to 2,000, well beyond the original estimate of what was needed.

The 2015 Chinatown strategies include improving communication to strengthen the community and reduce crime, strengthening the connection between new and old Chinatown, making Chinatown age friendly, increasing capacity to build on its tourism potential, improving options for high school students and their parents,

engaging stakeholders in community maintenance, defining future development, improving working relationships with neighboring communities, and increasing opportunities for planning input.

Chan said the community is following CMAP's process by involving local stakeholders to work through the strategies.

In addition, CMAP has approved a request for a Chinatown parking management study. The coalition noted, "It is increasingly important to fully determine the amount and type of metered, restricted, and unrestricted parking and identify opportunities for shared parking."

With the Bridgeport/Canaryville plan coming, Chan said

planning is vital beyond Chinatown's borders.

"Chinatown is 100 years old," he said. "We are part of connected neighborhoods, and we want to continue to be part of the neighborhoods."

About CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning was created under the authorizing legislation known as State of Illinois Public Act 095-0677. It operates as the planning agency for 284 communities in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. It is 80% Federally and 20% State funded.

Officials established its local technical assistance arm in 2010.

The agency currently is working to implement its Go To 2040 plan to address how an anticipated growth of two million residents will affect transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality of life issues in the area.

CMAP and its partners also are developing On To 2050, a new comprehensive regional plan slated for adoption in October 2018.

For more detailed information about CMAP and its technical assistance program, visit www.cmap.illinois.gov/. To offer comments, call (312) 454-0400. To contact Daley and Thompson's office to offer input, call (773) 254-6677.

PFAC union concerned about changes underway at Columbia College Chicago

By Jessica Villagomez

The Columbia College Chicago part-time faculty members' union known as the Part-Time Faculty Association Columbia College Chicago (PFAC), an organization that advocates for part-time faculty members across the university, has partnered with students in an effort they are calling "Save Columbia."

According to a PFAC flyer released to advertise a student and faculty forum at the university on Nov. 16, PFAC alleges the university is changing in structure and "moving toward the trade school model, with larger classes, fewer course offerings with little content, and a top-heavy administration that is out of touch with faculty and students."

Rosalind Cummings-Yeates, PFAC publicity chair and adjunct journalism professor at Columbia College Chicago, said PFAC first began to help negotiate fair wages for part-time faculty teaching at Columbia. The union won a contract that guaranteed members a certain pay per class, she said.

Issues with the administration have continued to emerge, however.

"Originally, the main issues were decent wages and allowance for one paid sick day during the



Photo courtesy PFAC

Members of Columbia College Chicago's Part Time Faculty Association Columbia (PFAC) marching for a contract. The union and university later signed a contract guaranteeing part-timers fair wages, but the contract ended in August.

semester," Cummings-Yeates said. "Columbia was an open and inclusive school at that time, [and] the focus was on community and providing students with a creative education from working professionals in their industry."

PFAC argues the administration's focus has changed into altering the university and its mission.

Issues changing

"The issues have changed as the administration and their focus have changed," Cummings-Yeates said. "Our main issues currently are demanding that the college follow the tier system that PFAC formed, that assigns classes according to seniority, academic freedom, and the right to create

and teach classes the way that best suits students, making sure that part-time faculty are valued and respected as the foundation of the college." PFAC also wants to ensure students get a well rounded education, she added.

The organization signed a contract after four years of negotiations in 2014. The contract ensured a level of job security and assigned classes on the basis of seniority. Grants as well as other benefits such as payments for meetings also were included. The contract expired last August, however, and PFAC is prepared to battle for another contract this year.

"For the next contract we are demanding that the administration follow our tiered system for part-time faculty with more experience; they are trying to get rid of the system so that they can hire anyone with no experience," Cummings-Yeates alleged. "We are asking that we be treated with the same respect as full-time faculty. Currently, we are treated like we are not valued by the college. Our members are fighting for class assignments that they should rightfully have, and we are mostly an afterthought for the administration's policies."

Columbia College Chicago responded to *Gazette Chicago*



"We saw the old sparkle return to our mom's appearance."

- Voices of Belmont Village

As a lifelong dancer, Alice has always projected confidence and grace. Sidelined by injuries and illness, she worried that she would never dance again. As a Belmont Village resident, Alice stays active every day in a holistic wellness program that includes personalized fitness, therapy, and rehab programs developed by experts in senior health.

Bring your sparkle back.

BELMONT Village

SENIOR LIVING
OAK PARK

Distinctive Residential Settings | Chef-Prepared Dining and Bistro
Premier Health and Wellness Programs | Award-Winning Memory Care
Professionally Supervised Therapy and Rehabilitation Services

The Community Built for Life.®

belmontvillage.com/oakpark • 708-848-7200



requests for an interview with a written statement, which said that the university respects all faculty members.

“Columbia College Chicago is negotiating in good faith with the union representing our part-time faculty and we will continue to do so with the goal of reaching an agreement that is acceptable to all parties,” the statement said. “Columbia greatly values the contributions of its excellent and dedicated full- and part-time faculty.”

Classes becoming larger

Jefferson Godard, a part-time faculty member in the Art & Art History Department, has belonged to PFAC since he began teaching at the university nine years ago. Godard said he has taught in three departments, including those for Design and for Architectural Studies. As for the changes he has seen since he started, Godard said he has not personally lost classes but has noticed that classes are becoming larger.

Though Godard’s students know he works part-time, his status has not affected him in the classroom, he said.

“They’re still able to relate to me,” he noted. “I think as any young person starting college they want to start with their career” and concentrate on their classes. “So I think the only struggle that the students have is that they want to

really get immediately immersed in their degree course load.”

Godard added that restructuring the department and foundational freshmen courses has benefited students and made it easier for first-year students to begin their careers at Columbia.

As for seniority and related issues, he wants PFAC to evolve so young colleagues have opportunities, too.

“I appreciate that PFAC is trying to maintain and retain existing instructors and their seniority with respect to courses offered,” he said. “However, I would like to see in the future for younger instructors to be able to come in and teach courses at the college because I think that the college needs more young instructors. I think that’s difficult with the current way that PFAC is structured.”

Regarding his hopes for changes with current contract negotiations, Godard “would like to see that there’s a more healthy balance between maintaining course offerings for more established faculty or fa-

culty that have been with the college for a long time as well as courses being offered to younger faculty.”

PFAC ultimately seeks to negotiate a new contract and push back against administrative changes.

“They are trying to turn Columbia into a soulless, for-profit type of institution, and we have formed a coalition to prevent this and restore the original mission of Columbia for community, inclusiveness and a creative education with working professionals,” Cummings-Yeates said.

Recent graduate of Columbia Joseph Carballo studied within the radio department at the university and noticed the department shrink throughout his time there. “The courses available always changed,” he said. “I had a couple classes I wanted to take, but it didn’t happen.”

Columbia College officials had no further comment.

To contact Columbia, call (312) 369-1000. For more about PFAC, log on to <https://www.facebook.com/pfac.org/>.

With a readership of more than 40,000 and 700 drop-off locations, **GAZETTE CHICAGO** is the best-read community newspaper in the city.

Second Chance Thrift
50% off Every Tuesday.
Men's and Women's Clothing
20% off China
20% off Outerwear
Happy New Year!
1674 WEST OGDEN Chicago, IL 60612
312.924.9643
www.revivecenter.org
STORE HOURS
Tue thru Fri 11am-7pm
Sat 10am-6pm
Closed Sunday and Monday
Proceeds Benefit: Revive Center for Housing and Healing




CHICAGO HOPE ACADEMY

100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE RATE

- PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
- BROWN UNIVERSITY
- US NAVAL ACADEMY
- COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
- NORTHWESTERN
- NOTRE DAME

A college & life preparatory Christian High School that is dedicated to nurturing and challenging the body, mind, and spirit to the glory of God.



-SILENT NIGHT-
PACK THE HOUSE
January 19th @ 5 pm
2641 W Harrison St
JOIN US FOR BOYS' & GIRLS' GAMES
chicagohopeacademy.org
Follow us:     

City initiative designed to increase affordable housing in parts of community; opponents express skepticism

Continued from page 1
market change, and to preserve the economic diversity that is critical to a healthy economy," Strazzabosco said.

Plan details

The City selected these zones for the updated ARO because of their increased gentrification or "susceptibility" to it, their location as part of upcoming or new "City investments or planning activities," or their having undergone a "recent or completed planning process in which affordability was identified as a community concern," Strazzabosco said.

While the Near North and Near West form a single pilot area, the City customized requirements for each.

For the Near North Zone, the unit obligation is 20%, half of which "must be built on site or off site within two miles in the same ARO zone," Strazzabosco said. Such units target those earning up to 60% of area median income (AMI), or \$37,920 for a two-person household, he said. Developers can build the rest of the units throughout the pilot area for "residents earning up to 100% AMI," or \$63,200, according to a City statement.

The Near West Zone has a unit obligation of 15%, or 20% if using tax increment financing. Unlike the Near North Side, where half the units must be on site and 60% AMI, two-thirds of units on the Near West Side must be on site or

within two miles. The remaining third must be within the pilot area and up to 100% AMI.

"The pilot addresses the unique needs within two distinct zones to create affordable workforce housing for the thousands of new jobs expected to be generated in the area by the North Branch Industrial Corridor modernization initiative and to stabilize Near West Side neighborhoods experiencing limited housing investment," Strazzabosco said.

Beyond adjusting the percentage of affordable units and the AMI, developers no longer will have the option to buy out of the above standards, Strazzabosco said. Previously, developers could pay an "in lieu fee" instead of implementing affordable units in their new developments, but the new plan removed this to further ensure growth of affordable housing options.

Community concerns

While officials updated the ARO since the 2015 version, some community members do not believe it will benefit long-time residents barely able to remain in the area.

Mary Tarullo, the associate policy director for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, said that, while the group supports affordable housing plans from the City, it also is "fighting for these programs to serve families struggling at the lowest income levels." While the new plan creates more affordable

"There's something really cynical about talking about displacement of families, primarily families of color, and then creating housing that is really just targeted at a much more white, professional resident, it's just really hypocritical what's happening here."

- Leah Levinger, Chicago Housing Initiative

housing, she contends it is not affordable enough for area families.

"These pilots fall short because the additional units they will require serve people at even higher incomes than the current ARO," Tarullo said. "Also, the Near North/Near West Pilot allows developers to substitute owner-occupied units where they would otherwise have been required to provide rental housing. That puts these housing units even more out of reach for struggling low-income families as well as many middle-income households."

Leah Levinger, executive director for the Chicago Housing Initiative, echoed those concerns as she explained the downside to raising the AMI to 100%. Levinger said this shift is "unprecedented," stating that, for decades, officials defined affordable housing at 60% of AMI as the "top bracket." To redefine it at 100% no longer represents families in the area, Levinger said.

"They eviscerated the definition of affordable housing in the Near North Side," Levinger added. "Affordable housing ordinances historically have served households at 60% of area median; that ends up being for a family of four around \$47,000, but the Near North Side raises that median."

Strazzabosco said the increased AMI will aid in creating a "healthy, mixed-income residential environment" that will help to ensure future growth. While the raise in AMI for a portion of units does serve a person with a higher income level, Strazzabosco said it will help to promote mixed-income developments, an adjustment in an area where there was a

"lack [of] private investment."

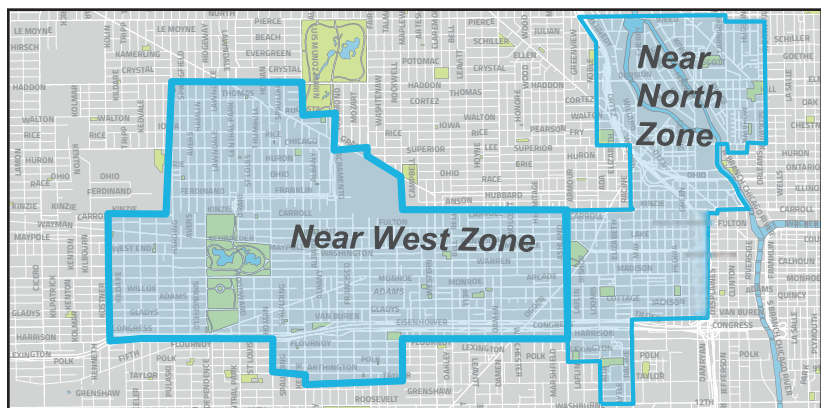
However, with this higher median, Levinger said the historic African American and Latino population in the area, who have an average income of \$30,000 to \$40,000, will not benefit. Instead, Levinger said these new plans appeal to the single, entry-level tech worker.

Like the AMI that suits the needs of a higher income individual, so do the units, Levinger said, noting the affordable housing that comes from the plan will be mostly studios and micro apartments, neither of which suits families. To Levinger, this factor makes plain a "mismatch" between whom the City says it will help and the plans' actual outcomes.

"There's something really cynical about talking about displacement of families, primarily families of color, and then creating housing that is really just targeted at a much more white, professional resident," Levinger said. "It's just really hypocritical what's happening here."

Strazzabosco, on the other hand, clarified that the ARO units must "match the mix of market-rate units" in each project. Strazzabosco explained that if a building includes 50% one bedrooms, 30% two bedrooms, and 20% three, the units offered from the ARO will match the same ratio. Furthermore, Strazzabosco said the City has an array of strategies to help families at a variety of income levels with housing.

"ARO units are directed to working families that can't afford market rates but also don't require additional subsidies or services," Strazzabosco said. "Other City programs help to create affordable units that address other priorities, including



A Chicago Department of Planning and Development map shows the zones in which the City has enacted new affordable housing requirement.

SWAP & RAMA
3 GREAT FLEA MARKETS
 Open every SAT & SUN 7am-4pm
 Indoor & Outdoor - FREE Parking

ALSIP | **ASHLAND**
 Also WEDNESDAY 7am-2pm | THURSDAY - 7am-3pm
 OUTDOORS ONLY | OUTDOORS ONLY
 4350 W 129th St. | 4200 South Ashland - Chicago

MELROSE PARK
 FRIDAY - 8am-3pm
 OUTDOORS ONLY • 4600 West Lake Street

Visit our website: swap-o-rama.com • 708-344-7300

URBAN COUNTERTOPS GRANITE • QUARTZ • MARBLE

1.312.282.1445
 1.773.893.5259
urbancountertops@gmail.com
urbancountertop.com

Urban Countertops, Inc
 3734 S. Saint Louis Ave
 Chicago, IL 60632
 Mon-Sat: 8am-5pm

OVER 15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

WE SPECIALIZE IN:
 • Contractors • Builders • Home Owners • Flippers

family units. For example, the City's multi-family affordable housing programs involving in-lieu fees, tax credits, loans, bonds and other resources have supported approximately 3,500 units (including 538 units with three or more bedrooms) in the last four years."

Siri Hibbler, founder of the Field of Dreams Visionary Center—non-profit that "exists to eradicate homelessness and poverty"—called the situation for families in these zones dire. Hibbler described the many families with whom she works, struggling to afford shelter for themselves and their children with a minimum wage job in an ever increasing housing market.

As prices continue to go up, Hibbler has seen shelters grow increasingly overcrowded, leaving struggling families with fewer places to turn.

"The city is truly in a state of emergency," Hibbler said. "I don't know what bubble our City Hall is living in, but folks down here on the ground are seeing this thing, and it's very serious. People are panicking, and we are running out of answers. Change is good when it's good change—that's when it's not forcing people out."

Both Hibbler and Levinger have seen the effect family displacement has on the community. As a result of families forced to move elsewhere, school enrollment has declined, Levinger said. Because schools receive funds on a per pupil basis, fewer students enrolled means a serious impact on a school.

"When you lose students, you lose after-school programs, music programs, arts programs, and libraries and it puts the schools more at risk of closure," Levinger said. "Something has to be done to stabilize the family population in these areas."

Levinger said the Chicago Housing Initiative proposed some changes to the plan, suggesting the pilot mandate that two- and three-bedroom units be required, but officials rejected the idea.

While the plan remains in effect until Dec. 2020, Strazzabosco said the City will continue to watch

Continued on page 15



PHONE (312) 421-5179
FAX (312) 421-8060

1531 W. TAYLOR STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60607

ONLINE ORDERING

THE BEST ITALIAN ON TAYLOR STREET

Now available right at your fingertips!

1 VISIT
WWW.POMPEIUSA.COM
ON ANY DEVICE YOU CHOOSE

2 CREATE
YOUR ORDER OF FAVORITE POMPEI MENU ITEMS, MADE WITH LOVE FOR GENERATIONS



3 RECEIVE
THE TASTE OF POMPEI, READY FOR PICK-UP OR DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOU

4 ENJOY
THE BEST AUTHENTIC POMPEI RECIPES RIGHT AT YOUR TABLE



Open Daily

Mon. - Sat. 10 am - 10 pm

Sun. 10 am - 9 pm

Kitchen closes 30 minutes prior to closing time.

DINE IN • CARRY OUT • DELIVERY
GIFT CERTIFICATES • CATERING • PRIVATE PARTY ROOMS

www.pompeiusa.com



©2017 Pompei Restaurant. All rights reserved. Prices & menu items subject to change without notice. Tax not included.



Happy New Year!

Family Law



CALL TO SCHEDULE A FREE CONSULTATION

Kathleen M. Walsh

attykmw@hotmail.com

708-447-8081

3236 S. Racine
Chicago, IL 60608

Pilsen Alliance disavows S.K.Y. confrontation; meeting follows

By Patrick Butler

Several weeks after protesters from a group called ChiResists held a protest march outside S.K.Y., a new “white tablecloth” eatery at 1239 W. 18th St., the Illinois Humanities group held what organizers hope will be the first of an ongoing series of conversations on how the community and new businesses coming into the area can learn to live together.

The ChiResists group confronted the restaurant’s general manager, Charles Ford, in late October. ChiResists, a newly organized local anti-gentrification group, blames places like S.K.Y. for driving long-time working-class residents out of the community.

Byron Sigcho of Pilsen Alliance, another anti-gentrification group, was quick to say that, even though some youths affiliated with the Pilsen Alliance went on a tour of the fast-changing neighborhood with ChiResisters and visitors from Los Angeles from a similar anti-gentrification group called Defend Boyle Heights, “we want people to understand we have always advocated for non-violence, especially in this politically charged environment.”

As Sigcho added, “We weren’t comfortable with what some of



Photo by Troy Heinzeroth

Sigcho (at right) and Gillanders sitting down at S.K.Y. to discuss issues affecting Pilsen. Sigcho noted that negotiatins can handle issues better than violence.

these other people were doing.” During most of the march, “only one person from our group was present. We already see enough hostility coming from the White House and elsewhere.

“We did not take part” in the incident “and we did not organize this,” Sigcho said.

Opposed to violence

Noting that vandals have tagged some buildings in the community with anti-gentrification graffiti, Sigcho said, “We definitely do not encourage violent acts.”

Sigcho said he has never been quiet about his concerns for Pilsen’s

growing loss of affordable housing in what has for decades been a predominantly Hispanic working class community.

He and others have been holding town meetings on affordable housing, renters’ rights, a community-driven zoning process, and rent control. Last year, he held a town meeting in the fall at the Rudy Lozano Library, and organizers invited him to speak at the Nov. 30 Illinois Humanities forum on “The Increasing Presence of Upscale Restaurants in Pilsen.”

Sigcho believes negotiations can handle gentrification issues better than violence.

Leaders of ChiResists could not be reached for comment, but a ChiResists statement noted that “despite attempts to characterize us as bad and violent people, we’re not the ‘bad guys.’ We’re not the ones who have displaced more than 10,000 residents from Pilsen. We’re not the ones making deals with greedy developers who prioritize profit over people and community.

“We are young residents, born and raised in Pilsen, that are hurting from seeing our people and history erased from our community and the city. We are the children of immigrants that watched our parents work for the homes they can’t afford to keep. We are the rent-burdened. We are the displaced.

“We know that at the root of gentrification are discriminatory policies and historic disinvestment from working-class communities. We know that those social injustices are what makes way for communities to be gentrified,” the ChiResist notice continued.

Ford said the only thing he and his associates did was to renovate a long vacant building.

After a time at the protest, Ford said, he felt “berated” by the demonstrators and called police.

The ChiResists statement said, “We never touched the manager.

SCHOOL ADMISSION 2018

2018 Open House Dates
1/27/18 2:30-4:30pm
Registration begins

CONTACT US AT
(773) 376-6223
Attn: Mrs. Caroline Koster

ABOUT US
We are...BCA!
Bridgeport Catholic Academy is a Catholic grade school in the heart of Bridgeport. We have a diverse community dedicated to educating young men and women for lives of leadership, faith, love, and service. Partnering with parents, we challenge our student body to be honorable, inquisitive, respectful, compassionate, and faith filled in their journey for academic excellence.

Take Control of Your HEALTHCARE

FOR SELF-EMPLOYED, INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES & SMALL GROUPS

There’s still time to enroll in a health plan

Although Open Enrollment has ended, there are health insurance options available. Whether you’re looking for better health care, are uninsured or it’s your first time buying health insurance, I will help you find a quality, affordable plan.

A Trusted Healthcare Advisor
I’m a healthcare specialist that is contracted with most major carriers and have access to some of the best health plans available. Depending on your budget, I will work hard to find the right plan to fit your needs.

Healthcare Solutions Team
A Plan for Everyone™

- Medical
- Vision
- Dental
- Life
- Medicare Supplements
- Ancillary and more!

Carmen P. Valentino 312-259-0333
cvalentino@myhst.com | cvalentino.myhst.com

Never threatened him. All we did was express our fears, rightful frustration, and demanded an end to business practices that accelerate our displacement. More than ever, it's clear to us that demands for equality are seen as dangerous to those who benefit from inequality.

"We are in fact the opposite of dangerous," the statement added. "We have nothing but love for our community. And lastly, we will not allow for the irresponsible media to continue to present gentrification as a debatable issue. Our right to housing is not up for debate."

S.K.Y. owner and chef Stephen Gillanders, who is of Filipino heritage, said the place is far from a four-star eatery. He added that there is apparently a false impression of the type of restaurant it is.

Sigcho said he talked to Ford after the incident. "We had a good conversation," Sigcho noted. "We discussed the other side of displacement. We understand [protesters'] feelings, but there are better ways to deal with this."

Community meeting

During the Nov. 30 meeting at LaCaterina Café, organized by Illinois Humanities, a group located at 125 S. Clark St. that encourages conversations about culture, moderator Xochyl Perez said most of the city already has become unaffordable to low income renters. Perez cited figures by the National

Low Income Housing Committee indicating that, for every 100 extremely poor families, there are only 28 affordable apartments available for them.

"We see people paying 60 to 70 percent more on rent than they can actually afford," Perez said.

Pilsen's loss of 10,000 mostly low- to moderate-income Hispanic families over the past decade has meant school closings, forcing some students to get up at 5 a.m. to travel longer distances to get to class, Perez noted.

Among the complaints concerning gentrification from the approximately 70 people who turned out for the meeting were "losing our community" and memories of the old neighborhood and the loss of long established institutions such as St. Adalbert's Church.

Other complaints besides widespread displacement included high prices, restaurant menus only in English, and a feeling that black and Hispanic residents are not welcome in some of the newer stores and restaurants.

Several neighbors said it is the newcomers' job to adapt to the community, not the other way around.

"Why should Pilsen excuse people who impose a way of life that is foreign to the original inhabitants?" said Aldo Reyes, who described himself as a community activist. "The people who already live here have a way of life. The game of

capitalism has divided people for hundreds of years. They say competition is natural. They are wrong. I say mutual aid is natural."

New "people want to come here for cheap rents, but nothing about living here has been cheap for us," said Ricardo Gamboa.

Another attendee who did not want to be named said, "And it's not just whites discriminating against blacks and Hispanics," noting he was "turned away when I was looking for an apartment because I wasn't Mexican. I'm Puerto Rican."

More business support

Local property owner Michael McLean said it might help for Hispanic business owners from outside the community to support the Pilsen community by moving there or coming back.

"If someone employs a lot of people who live in Pilsen, maybe his business should be here in Pilsen," McLean said. "Maybe if you're a business owner you should

go to lunch in Pilsen and help those businesses that are already at risk."

Elliott Hielman of Illinois Humanities noted some businesses target young, white professionals and may not welcome Hispanic residents as well as they should.

Sigcho said the meeting "was a good first step," adding that he hopes it will be "the first of a number of such conversations. One of the issues we're already working on is getting rent control."

Also in the hopper are "participatory budgeting for wards like ours," Sigcho said. "And public zoning meetings. We're trying to change the power dynamics in this community. We don't want this to be us versus them."

For more about ChiResists, log on to www.facebook.com/ChiResists/. Learn more about Illinois Humanities at www.ilhumanities.org/about-us/. For Pilsen Alliance, log on to www.thepilsenalliance.org/. For S.K.Y., log on to www.sky-restaurantchicago.com.

City initiative designed to increase affordable housing

Continued from page 13

the effects it produces, ensuring it benefits the intended groups.

For more on the Department of Planning and Development, log on to <https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dcd.html>. For more on the Chicago Coalition

for the Homeless, see <http://www.chicagohomeless.org/>. To learn more about the Chicago Housing Initiative, log on to <https://www.chicagohousinginitiative.org/>. For the Field of Dreams Visionary Center, see <https://fieldofdreamsvisionarycenter.com/>.

Want to make a difference in a child's future?



AARP Foundation
EXPERIENCE
CORPS
 Guiding the next generation of readers

We have an opportunity for you!

Research shows that those who don't read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma than proficient readers. *But you can change this statistic.* AARP Foundation Experience Corps Chicago is an award-winning, proven reading program that places volunteer tutors in kindergarten through 3rd grade classrooms with small groups of struggling students to help them with their reading skills.

Here's how you can help:

Volunteer to guide the next generation of readers. To be eligible, you must be aged 50+, willing to tutor small groups of students during the school year, possess a high school education or equivalent, and pass a background check.

To learn more visit www.aarp.org/ecchicago and register to attend an upcoming volunteer information session.

Upcoming Volunteer Information Sessions

To register, call 1-877-926-8300 and reference "AARP Foundation Experience Corps"

Friday, December 29th, 1-2 p.m.
 Humboldt Park Library
 1605 North Troy Street
 Chicago, IL 60647

Thursday, January 18th, 1-2 p.m.
 Teamwork Englewood
 815 West 63rd Street 2nd Floor
 Chicago, IL 60621

Friday, January 19th, 1-2 p.m.
 Chicago History Museum
 1601 North Clark
 Chicago, IL 60614

Tuesday, January 23th, 1-2 p.m.
 Garfield Park Conservatory
 300 N. Central Park
 Chicago, IL 60642

Vandals damage Holy Family window; five other churches hit

By Susan S. Stevens

Christmas joy was tempered by sadness at six houses of worship hit in December by vandals and would-be thieves: Holy Family, Old St. Patrick's, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Pius, St. Procopius, and St. Adalbert churches.

"It reminds us to always be forgiving and understand people are coming from other places," said Linda Lavery as she helped distribute food to the homeless at Holy Family Church, 1080 W. Roosevelt Rd. "At Christmas time, people do have a lot of emotional issues. We are called to be forgiving."

The worst loss among the six was at Holy Family. Someone climbed atop the church's Parish Center and smashed a century-and-a-half old stained glass window to drop down into the sanctuary the night of Dec. 12, said the Rev. Michael Gabriel, Holy Family pastor. The church was ransacked, but nothing was taken. "I had everything pretty well locked up," he said.

"The big thing was that it was the Prodigal Son window," with the father looking for the son to forgive him, Fr. Gabriel said.

"People do not respect each other, the sacred," he said. "But it

is a window," Fr. Gabriel added, noting that the damage could have been worse.

Although the 1860s window is insured, donations are being sought to better protect it when it is restored. Repairs are estimated to cost \$20,000 to \$25,000, he said.

"We will have a different type of protective glass on it," Fr. Gabriel said, noting that the new protective glass will be more like a windshield that would shatter but not break.

Jim Bruton, Holy Family's religious education coordinator, discovered the damage. Since the section of window disintegrated into small pieces, he doubted the glass could be pieced back together.

"Maybe a person who was not treated as well as they thought they should be" broke into the church, said Ray Walsh, a parishioner. Since the destruction, the church has received many offers of help and contributions, he said, adding, "Out of something this terrible, goodness comes."

Lavery said, "When something like this happens, people take it personally. It is like this is their home."

At St. Procopius Church, 1641 S. Allport St., a thief broke

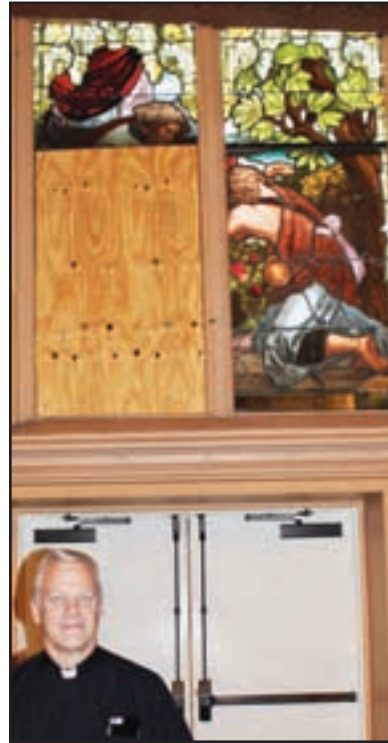


Photo by Christopher Valentino

Rev. Michael Gabriel, Holy Family pastor, shows the damage to the stain glass window that might take up to \$25,000 to repair. Five other area churches were targeted by thieves during the month of December.

through a glass panel in a side door to steal money from the candle box, Sylvia Pels, church operations director, said. "A

surveillance camera photographed the thief, but could not capture his face."

Pels said the St. Procopius burglary was at 2 a.m. Dec. 4. At 9:30 a.m. the same day, a thief broke into St. Pius Parish, 1919 S. Ashland Ave. No one at St. Pius could be reached for comment.

On Dec. 7, someone tried to break into St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 813 W. Roosevelt Rd., smashing a glass panel in a front door. "The alarm was on, so they left," the pastor, Rev. Walter Mallo, said.

At Old St. Pat's, 700 W. Adams St., sometime between 10 p.m. Dec. 20 and 10 a.m. the following morning, someone smashed a glass block window but did not enter the church, police said.

Fr. Gabriel said he was told vandals also broke two windows at the former St. Adalbert Church, 1650 W. 17th St., which has been purchased by an arts group. Many windows in the church and its adjacent buildings were already boarded up.

If you would like to make a donation towards the Holy Family window, call (312) 492-8442.

Police said they were not aware of any other similar December incidents, and no arrests had been made.

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Polar Adventure Days

— NORTHERLY ISLAND —

Saturday • January 20 • February 24 • Noon — 4pm

Northerly Island is located at
1521 S. Linn White Drive,
on the Museum Campus.

Parking is available for \$3, cash only.

- Tour Northerly Island Natural Area during winter
- See Siberian huskies, wolves and other live animals
- Make nature inspired winter craft
- Sip hot cocoa while strolling across the prairie
- Raffle prizes and giveaways provided by Coca-Cola

For more information:
Visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com
or call 312.742.7529 or 312.747.2001 (TTY)

City of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, Mayor
Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners
Michael P. Kelly, General Superintendent & CEO

Book Your Party Now at

DAMENZO'S BANQUETS

The Damenzo's brand specializes in mouth-watering Italian specialties at reasonable prices. We have been in business for over 25 years and specialize in Southern Italian specialties.

741 S. Western Ave
Chicago, IL 60612

We guarantee great food, reasonable prices, and a beautiful atmosphere right here in your neighborhood. We can accommodate up to 175 people.

Call now to book your next event

312-421-5065

WWW.DAMENZOSBANQUETS.COM

Bernie Wong, Esther Wong benefitted Chinatown community through CASL

Continued from page 7

together would help solve many of the city's problems."

Daley further explained that when he had asked for the neighborhoods to assist in a community policing strategy - a hard sell to many at the time - Bernie Wong had risen to the occasion. But this was only one example. Daley noted that Bernie Wong was always on board for various City initiatives. Daley and Bernie Wong developed a strong bond and were mutually supportive of each other over many years.

CASL has gone on to build on its early services by responding to the community's changing needs as its members mature, providing help with employment, financial management, first home mortgages, and many other issues.

Esther Wong is remaining on staff until CASL hires a new executive director. "Our mission is to make system change through advocacy, but we can't do it all," she explained. "Now we partner with groups like Coalition for a Better Chinese American Chicago, founded by C.W. Chan; we don't have to lead, but now we can be members and participants."

Esther Wong's quiet role

"What few know about CASL is



Bernie Wong and Esther Wong with young dancers at CASL.

that Esther Wong has played a very major and consistent role in the agency's history," Chan said. "She is CASL's silent partner. Our founding board had very active committees. Some members have since left, but Esther was ever present and active. Since CASL's inception, she has worked tirelessly and quietly behind the scenes as the backbone of the organization's programs and services. Esther had served as chairwoman and member of the program committee before becoming executive director."

Helping immigrants feel a sense of family has been essential to CASL's essence. Tenny Yu, CASL nurse for adult day services, said she came through CASL's summer youth program in her early teens as an immigrant and returned every year when she could.

"What I learned about jobs, communication, and social skills from Bernie and CASL staff members still helps me today," Yu said. "Their services helped me to build the foundation for a career that would help people in need. That

was the reason why I chose to become a nurse."

Bernie Wong's and Esther Wong's skills and abilities have complemented each other over the years. Both have served on various boards and won many awards and accolades from Federal, State, and City governments as well from various organizations.

As the two ready themselves for their next careers, they can celebrate that the Chinese American community has been well served and their own lives have been well lived.

CASL is at 2141 S. Tan Ct. Call (312) 791-0418 or log on to www.caslservice.org.

To read the complete electronic version of **Gazette Chicago** go to eedition.gazettechicago.com



THE FRANCES XAVIER WARDE SCHOOL

YOUR PATHWAY TO

WONDER



APPLY NOW

Please visit our website at fxw.org for application details and to schedule a school day tour.

Preschool-Grade 3
120 S. Desplains Street

Grades 4-8
751 N. State Street

Need-based tuition assistance available

Year in Review

Area's ten communities provide big news in 2017 with thorough *Gazette Chicago* coverage

By William S. Bike

The ten communities of this area experienced another busy news year in 2017, and *Gazette Chicago* covered the news thoroughly. Following is a look back at news in the months the newspaper covered it.

JANUARY

A City of Chicago vision plan for Chicago's three rivers included clean up and restoration of Bridgeport's Bubbly Creek. The City decided to create the Wells Wentworth Connector, a new roadway between Chinatown and the Loop. The Southeast Environmental Task Force expressed concerns about oil freight trains operating in local communities. The Riverline and 21st St. Lofts developments were under construction in the South Loop/Near South area.

The Resurrection Project was interested in developing residential units on a 7.85-acre site in Pilsen. Local merchants asked the City to use Kinzie Corridor TIF funds to help the homeless. The City planned a new Roosevelt Branch Library. Developers planned to build two

12-story apartment buildings next to the Medical District Apartments. The City dedicated the Eleanor Street Boat House.

Parishioners worked to save two churches: the Shrine of Christ the King suffered the effects of a fire, and St. Adalbert's Church was ordered closed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese. The Food Research and Action Center reported that 14% of Illinois residents were struggling to afford food. Chicago Shakespeare announced plans to construct a new performance venue.

FEBRUARY

Five candidates ran for 4th Ward Alderman. Pilsen Alliance advocated for a Community Benefits Agreement that would protect residents and business owners. The Chicago Housing Initiative, the Metropolitan Tenants Organization, and 20 aldermen collaborated on the Keeping the Promise ordinance to help reduce homelessness, expand affordable housing, and reform the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA).

The CHA announced a plan to redevelop the site of the former

Harold L. Ickes Homes. The Real Salt Lake Major League Soccer team selected the University of Illinois at Chicago's Andrew Putna to play pro soccer. Tom Van Eck brought in new and repaired billiards equipment to the Valentine, Little Village, and True Value Boys and Girls Clubs.

MARCH

City officials granted a building permit for the One South Halsted St. tower, prompting concerns about Greektown parking and congestion. Neighbors were concerned that Arrigo Park was becoming an "active" (sports-oriented) park, rather than a "passive one" Parishioners and friends of St. Adalbert's Parish protested near Holy Name Cathedral, asking the Archdiocese to keep their church open.

With Trump Administration actions targeting a variety of people in this area, *Gazette Chicago* compiled a list of organizations to help people resist. The Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization looked at lead levels in the residential and school water supplies. Children of Peace School

honored Phyllis Winter and Arlene Redmond for their contributions to the school and its deaf/hard-of-hearing program.

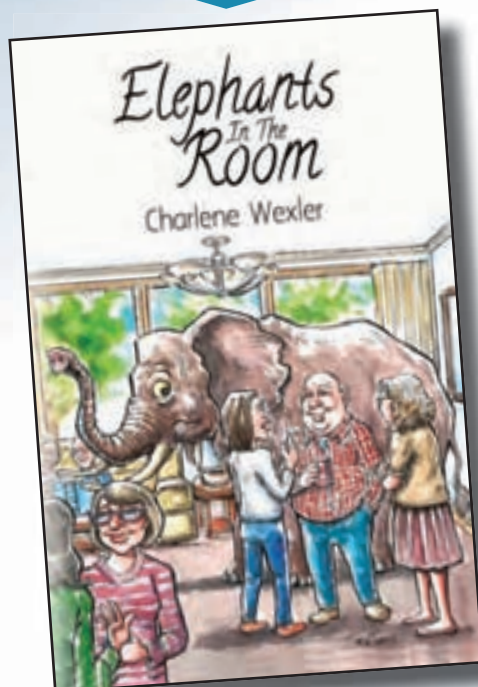
Queen of Peace High School announced it would close, with St. Laurence High School going co-ed and accepting Queen of Peace students. Mercy Hospital and Medical Center announced a new \$75 million renovation project. Building contractor Mark Zoll announced plans to transform a former lampshade factory at 540 W. 35th St. into offices, music studios, and art galleries. Volunteers hit the streets to raise money for Mercy Home for Boys & Girls.

APRIL

Several neighborhood organizations in the West Loop worked on new initiatives to foster economic development and a safer environment in the area. The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of Chicago announced plans to build an eight-story senior housing development. The Herbal Care Center marijuana dispensary opened on the Near West Side.

Anti-Semitic flyers were posted

Is there an elephant in your room?



Elephants In The Room is award-winning author Charlene Wexler's latest collection of short fiction and essays examining life, love, and the tragedy and comedy of the human condition.

Wexler's stories will tickle your funnybone and tug at your heartstrings.

To purchase *Elephants In The Room*, go to www.amazon.com



THE FOOT CLINIC
DISEASES AND SURGERY
OF THE FOOT & ANKLE

preventative care.
diabetic wound care.
general foot health.

Treatment of diabetics, geriatrics, pediatrics, lower extremity neuropathy, sports and work-related injuries.

We take in-network and out-of-network insurance plans. Payment options available if needed.

Call 312.243.3769 for an appointment.

Frank William Zappa, DPM
Nikola Ivancevic, DPM

1226 WEST TAYLOR STREET,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607

www.ZappaFootClinic.com



at UIC and denounced by UIC administration, faculty, and students. The Children's Hospital University of Illinois named Benjamin Van Voorhees, MD, had of pediatrics and physician-in-chief. St. Therese Chinese Catholic School Principal Phyllis Cavallone-Jurek earned a Stanly C. Golder Award for Excellence in Leadership from Golden Apple.

The book *Chicago Is Not Broke* offered plans to solve Chicago's budget crisis. The City decided to add an annex to the Mark Sheridan Math and Science Academy. Angela Valentino earned the Antoinette "Toni" Di Fiore Scholarship from Our Lady of Pompeii. Tenants at an Archer Avenue Single Residence Occupancy facility battled to save their home.

Sophia King won the 4th Ward aldermanic runoff. The Riverline and 21st Street Lofts developments moved forward in the South Loop.

MAY

Gazette management officially changed the name of the publication to *Gazette Chicago* to reflect its coverage of articles important to the whole City. The City selected a design for a combined new Roosevelt Branch Library and apartments at Taylor and Ada Streets.

Immanuel Baptist Church filed a lawsuit seeking to force the City to allow it to buy two buildings



A large crowd of parishioners and friends of St. Adalbert's Parish garnered media attention when they marched at Holy Name Cathedral.

on Roosevelt Road; the City has been denying permission because it wants the church to provide parking.

Gazette Chicago analyzed Republican efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Park officials planned several open-space innovations for the South Loop area, starting with Grant Park. Developers and townhouse owners worked out an agreement to permit construction of two new highrise apartment buildings at the Medical District Apartments. The Bridgeport community saw infrastructure improvements and business revitalization on Morgan and Halsted Streets.

The Chicago School Board con-

sidered making post-high school plans a graduation requirement. With gentrification increasing in Pilsen, families fought eviction proceedings at an apartment building on 21st Street. Notre Dame de Chicago Church added air conditioning to the church building. Ernesto Ponticello, known as the "tailor from Taylor Street," passed away.

JUNE

Planters were removed on Madison Street in the West Loop, to mixed reactions. Rush University Medical Center received neighbors' approval to move offices into the former National Republic Bank of Chicago building at Harrison

Street and Racine Avenue. Golfers' reactions were divided on proposed Jackson Park, South Shore golf courses merger.

Property Markets Group bought an eight-acre site in Pilsen. The Chicago Center for Arts and Technology opened. More bicycle lanes were planned for the Near West Side and South Loop. South Loop Elementary School was slated to receive \$50 million in TF funds for a new building. The West Loop community worked for a new fieldhouse for Skinner Park.

Wrestlers from Chicago Hope Academy won their first-ever sectional title.

JULY

Developers planned a 50-unit expansion of the Roosevelt Square redevelopment project and a 254-unit building in the Medical District Apartments complex. The Chicago Public Schools planned a gradual conversion of National Teachers Academy into a new high school. Investigative reporting showed that Chicago Police were issuing fewer tickets for texting and driving.

Local residents questioned the City's motives for frequent 18th Street cleaning. Governor Bruce Rauner promised to sign a newly-revised Automatic Voter Registration bill. Notre Dame de Chicago's pastor, Monsignor Patrick Pollard,

Continued on page 20

T2 CABINETS

Come visit our showroom and you will receive
FREE LAYOUT DESIGNS
FREE MEASUREMENTS
FREE ESTIMATES

Usonia
 Natural Maple
 Bamboo
 Burnham
 Cream Maple
 Melamine
 Acrylic & HPL

QUALITY CABINETS AT AN UNBEATABLE VALUE
 SHOWROOM OPEN TO PUBLIC - 90,000 SF WAREHOUSE

T2Cabinet Kitchen and Bath Design
 ADDRESS: 1400 WEST 37TH STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60609
 OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Saturday 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM
 PHONE: (773) 247-8282 | WEB: www.t2cabinet.com

Intercultural
 Montessori Language School

"I am a citizen of the world."

Chinese • Japanese • Spanish

Dual Language Montessori Programs for Ages 3-12

Open House January 17. Call or E-mail to reserve a spot!

Chicago Campus: (312) 265-1514
Oak Park Campus: (708) 848-6626

admissions@interculturalmontessori.org www.interculturalmontessori.org

Year in Review

Area's ten communities provide big news in 2017 with thorough Gazette Chicago coverage

Continued from page 19

retired. *Gazette Chicago* reported on the Boulevard, a free, high quality, post-hospital landing place for people with no home to return to for recuperation.

Holy Family Church, Morning Star Baptist Church, and Second Presbyterian Church all celebrated milestone anniversaries. The Aquinas Literacy Center moved to a building at Hermitage Avenue and 35th St.

AUGUST

CA Ventures bid on a row of long vacant South State Street buildings to create new residential and retail space. Saint Ignatius College Prep announced plans to rebuild and expand athletic facilities. The Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization, Just Design, and Engineers Without Borders announced that lead in drinking water is a problem in Chicago.

Alderman George Cardenas (12th Ward) proposed redevelopment of historic McKinley Park buildings. A new riverfront park was considered for the site of the shuttered Fisk power plant. Disney's *Aladdin* was performed at the Cadillac Palace Theatre. Parking bans were proposed for the South Loop and the West Loop. Queen of Peace High School held a celebration featuring alumni, faculty, Dominican sisters, families, and friends before closing.

SEPTEMBER

The City moved forward on library/housing plans on Taylor Street despite vocal opposition. Opposition stalled the proposed Chinatown Special Services Tax

The book *Chicago Is Not Broke: Funding the City We Deserve*, edited by Tom Tresser, shared ideas on repairing the City's finances. Alderman Patrick D. Thompson



The University of Illinois at Chicago and other universities will provide expertise for the Discovery Partners Institute in the South Loop.

considered Bridgeport business strip rezoning.

Pastor Cesar Sifuentes joined St. Matthew Lutheran Church. *Gazette Chicago's* Mark Valentino, William S. Bike, and Susan Stevens won an Award of Excellence from Communications Concepts for its coverage of the passing of community activist Oscar D'Angelo. A developer who painted over the Casa Aztlan mural said the artwork would be replaced.

Alderman Pat Dowell (3rd Ward) came out in favor of a Chicago Public Schools plan for turning National Teachers Academy into a high school.

OCTOBER

The Little Italy Chicago Neighborhood Association added Mary Baggett of the ABLA Local Advisory Council to its board. River City condominium owners weighed a \$100 million buyout offer to convert the building to apartments. Officials from three universities sold the University Center dormitory to a private firm. Rainbow

PUSH and other activists pushed back on Donald Trump's Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.

The debate continued over the additional tax in Chinatown to pay for community upgrades. The Chicago Transit Authority decided to continue the 31st Street bus route through March. Community activists demanded rent control and more affordable housing in the area. Plans for the Park Works site and gentrification worried Pilsen residents.

The Rev. Donald Becker, former pastor of First Immanuel Lutheran Church; the Rev. Michael Flynn of Nativity of Our Lord Church; and Jimmy Tavolino of Pompei Bakery passed away.

NOVEMBER

Two new sports facilities, Wintrust Arena and the MB Ice Arena-Chicago Blackhawks Community Rink, opened. Fulton Market residents objected to plans for narrow alleys. Mayor Rahm Emanuel's budget called for putting \$3 million into

enhancing community policing." Lake Meadows Shopping Center began renovation.

The Arrigo Park Christopher Columbus statue was defaced twice before the annual Columbus Day celebration. The Chicago Transit Authority improved the Illinois Medical District el station. Suspicions mounted over motivations behind the proposed Chinatown Special Services Area (SSA) tax. The University of Illinois at Chicago held its Image of Research competition showing photographs related to scientific research.

Immanuel Baptist Church continued to fight the City's requirement for it to have a parking lot. Easterseals broke ground on a new Fitness, Wellness, and Recreation Center. Neighbors expressed concerns over parking and traffic near the Wintrust Arena. A dog park was planned for McKinley Park. The City decided to keep recycling bins at 1728 S. Clark St.

DECEMBER

Governor Rauner and the University of Illinois System proposed the Discovery Partners Institute for the South Loop that would include research and tech resources from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Northwestern University. The Little Italy Chicago Neighborhood Association pondered taking the City to court over a library and apartments proposed for Roosevelt Square.

The City moved forward with plans for a new \$95 million combined police and fire training academy. Chinatown community members went to City Hall to discuss a proposed SSA tax. UIC's men's soccer team won the Horizon League championship.

• Auto • Life • Home • Business
Gets you back where you belong.



Serving Illinois since 1997 **Sandra Cavoto Insurance Agency, Inc.**
948 W. Madison St. • Chicago, IL 60607 • 312.666.4424
scavoto@farmersagent.com • www.farmersagent.com/scavoto

Discounts apply to selected property and casualty coverages, perils and policy types only and may vary from state to state and eligibility. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify.

The Bingo of Two's St. Barbara Thursday Bingo

Chicago's favorite
place 2 play!

\$202
regular games
PLUS a \$500
Overall



Tic Tac raffle \$5,802
Lion's Pride \$5,002
Super Strip \$2,202
Odd/Even \$1,199

(as of 12-21-17)
Doors open 4:30 p.m.
Starts at 6:35 p.m. • License #B3266

St. Barbara Church
2859 S. Throop St. (just south of Archer Ave.)

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: 5:00 p.m., Sunday: 6:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Around the Neighborhood

By William S. Bike

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The **AARP Foundation Experience Corps** will hold volunteer information sessions on Thursday, Jan. 18, Friday, Jan. 19, and Tuesday, Jan. 23. Call (877) 926-8300.

AA MEETINGS

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, in the basement at 1220 W. Lexington St. The meetings are closed format, meaning they are for people with drinking problems or AA members only, and not for family members. Call (773) 376-9772 for more information.

BENTON HOUSE INFO

At **Benton House**, 3052 S. Gratten Ave., find out about public benefits such as supplemental nutrition assistance and citizenship application help. Food pantry hours are noon to 2 p.m. Fridays. Enjoy movies most Mondays at 7 p.m., senior exercise Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., yoga on Tuesdays at 8 p.m., and open

basketball games Wednesdays at 8 p.m. Call (773) 927-6420 or email info@bentonhouse.org.

AFTER-SCHOOL OFFERINGS

The **Blessed Sacrament Parish** after-school youth program offers those ages 12 through 18 a safe and relaxing atmosphere at its Youth Center, 3528 S. Hermitage Ave. Teens can get help with homework, play sports, and interact with other teens. The center is open Tuesday, 3 to 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday through Friday, 3 to 7 p.m.; and Sunday, 7 to 9:30 p.m.

For more information, call (773) 847-2011 or log on to http://bspyouth.blogspot.com/.

OPEN HOUSE

Bridgeport Catholic Academy, 3700 S. Lowe Ave., will have an open house on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. School registration also will begin then. For information, call (773) 376-6223.

GALLERY NIGHT

The **Chicago Arts District** Second Fridays gallery night happens every second Friday of the month

from 6 to 10 p.m. This walking tour of 25 Pilsen galleries and art spots includes performance art and shopping opportunities. Admission is free. Begin your tour at 2003 S. Halsted St. For more information, call (312) 432-1995.

BIRTHDAY SUIT

Three children explore how to deal with hurtful words about skin color in *My Wonderful Birthday Suit!* at **Chicago Children's Theatre**, 100 S. Racine Ave. Performances are Tuesday, Jan. 16, through Monday, Feb. 18. Call (773) 227-0180.

BASKETBALL GAMES

Join **Chicago Hope Academy** for boys' and girls' basketball games Friday, Jan. 19, at 5 p.m., 2641 W. Harrison St. See chicagohope-academy.org.

HOST A BOOK MEETING

Editor Tom Tresser, who published the book *Chicago Is Not Broke*, is asking people to host a "book meeting in a box" at their homes. He will send ten books to you plus a discussion guide. You invite people to your home and either give

or sell them the book. He supplies a link to a pre-recorded personalized video introduction that you play for the attendees. If you bring those folks back together after they read the book, Tresser will join that gathering via a live video chat. Contact Tresser at (312) 804-3230 or tom@civiclab.us.

FREE FITNESS WEEK

The **Chicago Park District** offers the opportunity to work out for free, Sunday, Jan. 8, through Saturday, Jan. 14. See www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY QUEEN

The **Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee** and **Plumbers Local Union 130 UA** are looking for the 2018 St. Patrick's Day Queen. Any girl of Irish ancestry, never married, between the ages of 18 and 28 years old, is eligible. Deadline for applications is Monday, Jan. 8. The Queen Contest will be held in the Stephen M. Bailey Auditorium, 1340 W. Washington Blvd., on Sunday, Jan. 14. The parade and river dyeing will be held Saturday, March 17. For

Continued on page 22

www.jandacleaninginc.com

Happy New Year!

J&A Carpet & Furniture Cleaning Service, Inc.

- Carpeting
- Area rugs
- Furniture cleaning

We accept

Call 773/523-6682 today!

We are family-owned and operated for over 30 years, and fully insured. Check our references!

LOOK FOR US ON YELP.

DAMENZOSPIZZA.NET

Papi's Tacos

Best Tacos Tortas & Burritos

FOR DELIVERY CALL 312/829-3001

2320 W. TAYLOR ST.

Mon-Thurs: 7 a.m. - midnight
Fri & Sat: 7 a.m. - 1 a.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. - midnight

DAMENZO'S PIZZA

FOR BANQUETS CALL 312-421-5065

FOR DELIVERY OR CATERING CALL 312/421-1142

2324 W. TAYLOR ST.

Mon-Thurs: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Fri & Sat: 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.
Sunday: noon - midnight

Around the Neighborhood

ST. PATRICK'S DAY QUEEN

Continued from page 21

information, log on to chicagost-patricksdayparade.org or email queencontest@gmail.com.

ASK YOUR MAMA

Chicago Sinfonietta presents the Chicago premiere of Emmy Award-winning composer Laura Karpman's *Ask Your Mama* for its Martin Luther King tribute concert. The group performs *Ask Your Mama* twice: North Central College, Naperville, IL, Sunday, Jan. 14, at 3 p.m., and Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave., Monday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are from \$10 to \$62; special \$10 pricing is available for students and children. For tickets, call (312) 284-1554 or log on to www.chicagosinfonietta.org/mlk.

CHICAGO WOMEN'S PARK EVENTS

Chicago Women's Park and Gardens at 1801 S. Indiana Ave. will host adult fitness, early childhood, and youth programs from Monday, Jan. 8, through the week of March 12. Log on to <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/Chicago-Womens-Park-and-Gardens>.

Fit4Mom Stroller Strides is a workout moms can do with their babies at the park Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and Saturdays

at 9 a.m. Log on to chicagoloop.fit4mom.com.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Civic Legal Corps helps close the access gap for individuals who cannot afford private law firm fees in family law matters but earn too much to qualify for free legal assistance. Individuals with total household income between 125% and 400% of federal poverty guidelines may receive services from the group, priced on a sliding scale. Eligible clients may have income as high as \$47,520 for one person and \$163,560 for a family of eight. Call (872) 216-9695 or log on to www.civiclegalcorps.org. The office is at 310 S. Peoria St.

FIRE AND ICE

Maggie Daley Park, 337 E. Randolph St., will host the Fire and Ice Festival Friday, Jan. 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy woodcraft, astronomy, a bonfire, and ice skating. Call (312) 742-3918.

DE LA SALLE NEWS

The Girls Catholic Athletic Conference All-Academic Team named 34 **De La Salle Institute** students to its ranks for excellence in the classroom: Evelyn Aguayo, Taylor Amison, Jaily Benford, Rebecca Chavez,



The Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and Plumbers Local Union 130 UA are looking for applicants for the 2018 St. Patrick's Day Queen Contest.

Kaitlin Cook, Rachael Curington, Jayleen DelValle, Aaminah Dishman, Kailey Dogins, Taylor Duddleston, Niyah Edmond, Adriana Garcia, Madison Gagen, Juliana Hernandez, Isabella LaCoco, Denise Maldonado, Arianna Mena, Adeline Molloy, Daniela Nino, Dinah Ortiz, Nyiah Penny, Imani Phillips, Isabel Rocha, Emily Rogers, Lucy Schiller, Yasmine Simpson, Madelyn Smith, Amanda Sparano, Makenzie Steele, Adeline Tassone, Breana Wayne, Kaiya Wheaton, Christine Williams, and Citlalli Zavala.

Adam Chavarria is the new president of the school's alumni association, succeeding Steve Burrows.

Two De La Salle students won honors in the 2017 Illinois Fatherhood Initiative essay contest on the theme "What My Father Means to Me." Junior Qwayland McGowan finished first in the Father Figure category, writing about Keithston Ferguson. Sophomore Kameron Lyles finished first in the Grandfather category, writing about Robert Lyles.

Two members of the De La Salle girls volleyball team were chosen to the All-Girls Catholic Athletic Conference Red Division Team: senior right side Taylor Duddleston and freshman Francesca Bertucci.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission designated 17 De La Salle students as 2018-19 Illinois State Scholars: seniors Dakota Biliskov, Aaron Galka, Gabriel

Garcia, Tiffany Haep, Simon Hernandez, Shaun LeVine, Max Masquelier, Brittany Miller, Nataly Montiel, Reeanna Nyden, Christine Pierre, Yan Sun, Kevin Wang, Charles Webber, Cameron White, Grace Wozniak, and Hankai Xing.

Members of the football team chosen to the 2017 All-Chicago Catholic League Green Division First Team were offensive/defensive lineman Nick Boehm, linebacker Joseph Bonds, tight end/defensive end Mike Coates, linebacker Dominee Daniels, defensive end Steven Hawthorne, wide receiver Frank Ramundo, and quarterback Robert Simental.

De La Salle recently held its first grammar school writing contest. Seventh and eighth grade students from seven Catholic grammar schools wrote on working for justice. The winners were: first place, Aimee Cruz, St. Thomas of Canterbury; second place, Julian Munoz, St. Daniel the Prophet; third place, Samantha Muth, St. Christina; fourth place, Daniel Grobla, St. Daniel the Prophet; and fifth place, Vivian Nguyen, St. Thomas of Canterbury.

The Chicago Bears honored football coach Mike Boehm at a game in December as the Papa John's coach of the week.

De La Salle is at 3434 S. Michigan Ave. Call (312) 842-7355.



More than 30 De La Salle Institute student-athletes made the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference All-Academic Team.

Complete assortment of sweets, pastries and lunch!

The finest cannoli • All-occasion cakes
Miniature and specialty pastries
Cookies • Assorted biscotti
Catering and serving lunch

"Original" Ferrara, Inc.
2210 W. Taylor St., Chicago
312-666-2200
Fax 312-666-2008

Established 1908
Open Mon - Fri 8 - 7 • Sat 8:30 - 5:00 • Sun 10 - 2

ferrarabakery.com

Prayer To The Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.



St. Jerome School sixth-grade girls' volleyball players finished in first place in a recent tournament held at De La Salle Institute.

FREE DAYS

The **Field Museum** will offer free basic admission on Monday, Jan. 15; Saturday, Jan. 27; and Sunday, Jan. 28; as well as throughout the month of February. The museum is at 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr. Log on to www.fieldmuseum.org.

NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Emerald City Theatre's production of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' runs through Sun., Jan. 7, at the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place, 175 E. Chestnut St. This comic take on the classic poem features a couple of dancing mice, a spunky girl, and an Elf-B-I agent. Tickets start at \$17.50. Call (773) 529-2690 or log on to www.emeraldcitytheatre.com.

LEGAL DEFENSE

First Defense Legal Aid, 5100 W. Harrison St., provides representation to people in custody, informs people of their rights, and organizes volunteers to help. For more information, call (773) 434-4162.

DONATIONS WELCOME

First Trinity Chicago Lutheran Church Community Center welcomes donations of clothing, shoes, and hygiene items. Volunteers take donations on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon. The church is located at 643 W. 31st St. Call (312) 842-7390.

GREEKTOWN SHUTTLE

Greektown Chicago offers a free Greektown shuttle to Chicago Bulls and Chicago Blackhawks home games. For information and locations log on to www.greektownchicago.org.

OPEN HOUSE

Intercultural Montessori Language School will have an open house on Wednesday, Jan. 17. The school has two locations. Call (312) 265-1514.

MARKET NEWS

Maxwell Street Market, Des-plaines and Taylor Streets, is open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sundays, year round.

MCKINLEY PARK NEWS

The **McKinley Park Dog Park** Committee meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the McKinley Park Fieldhouse. Email mckinleydogpark@gmail.com. The park is at 37th Street and Archer Avenue.

MERCY HOSPITAL NEWS

Mercy Hospital and Medical Center hosts classes and groups including Yoga for You, the Sarcoma Support Group, Transformational Movement, and Eat Right Every Bite. The hospital is at 2525 S. Michigan Ave. Visit www.mercy-chicago.org or call (312) 567-2000.

MERIT NEWS

Merit School of Music, 38 S. Peoria St., invites children and their parents or caregivers to gather the second Monday of every month at 11 a.m. for a free *Storytime* early childhood music class. Next date is Jan. 8. Merit is located at 38 S. Peoria St. Call (312) 786-9428.

NORTHERLY ISLAND NEWS

Northerly Island Polar Adventure Days will be held the Saturdays of Jan. 20 and Feb. 24, noon to 4 p.m. Event is free. Parking is \$3. Enjoy tours, animals birds, treats, and a raffle. Archery classes for youth, adults, and families will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays through March 22. Northerly Island is located at 1521 S. Linn White Dr.

WINTER WONDERFEST

Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., hosts its 17th annual Winter WonderFest, which presents a 170,000-square-foot holiday-themed winter playground with more than 25 rides featuring music, indoor ice skating, *Continued on page 24*

Coming Next Month
 Friday, February 2, 2018

Valentine's
 Restaurant &
 Entertainment Guide

Complete
 4-Color
 Restaurant &
 Entertainment
 Guide

Just in time to
 plan your special
 Valentine's
 Day
 celebration

Advertisers:
 Don't miss out on this great
 promotional opportunity!

More than 17,000 copies. Over 40,000 readers in print and on-line through our E-edition. Distributed free in over 900 locations throughout the Near West Side/Tri-Taylor, University Village/UIC South Campus, West Loop, South Loop, West Haven, Bridgeport, Chinatown, Bronzeville, East Pilsen and Heart of Chicago communities.

Advertising Deadline: Friday, January 19

GAZETTE
 CHICAGO

(312) 243-4288 • www.gazettechicago.com
eedition.gazettechicago.com

Around the Neighborhood

WINTER WONDERFEST

Continued from page 23

hang gliding, a ropes obstacle course, inflatable slides, carnival rides, an indoor Ferris wheel, a create-a-cookie cottage, and a reindeer express train ride. The fest runs through Sun, Jan. 7. Admission prices range from \$12 for children to \$27 for adults for all rides and activities. Call (800) 595-7437 or visit www.navypier.com.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Overeaters Anonymous meets every Monday from 7 to 8 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 3528 S. Hermitage Ave. Call (773) 523-3917.

INTERNET COURSES

Public Narrative, 600 S. Michigan Ave., offers courses in various



Photo courtesy Public Narrative

Public Narrative offers courses on social media, communication plans, podcasting, search engine optimization, and analytics.

locations on topics including social media, communication plans, podcasting, search engine optimization, and analytics. Call (312) 369-6400.

RUSH GENERATIONS

Rush Generations a health and aging program, offers many classes and programs. Interested in increasing flexibility and range of motion? Try gentle yoga on Thursdays, Jan. 11 to Feb. 26. Cost: \$40. Worried about falling this winter? Attend "A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls," on Mondays, Jan. 22 to March 12, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$30. And if you'd like to learn how to build skills and gain confidence in managing your health, join Rush Generations on Wednesdays, Jan. 31 to March 7, 9 to 11:30 a.m., for the free workshop "Take Charge of Your Health." All are offered at Rush at the Johnson R. Bowman Health Center, 710 S. Paulina St. To reserve your spot, call (888) 352-RUSH (7874).

OPEN HOUSE/BOOK FAIR

St. Barbara Catholic School, 2859 S. Throop St., will have an open house and book fair on Sunday, Jan. 28. Call (312) 326-6243.

SAINT IGNATIUS NEWS

Online tours of **Saint Ignatius College Prep** are available. Log on to <https://tour.lcp360.com/nocache/stignatius/tour/>.

Saint Ignatius is located at 1076 W. Roosevelt Rd. Call (312) 421-5900 or log on to www.ignatius.org.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

St. Jerome School sixth graders and **Walsh School** captured the gold and silver bracket championships at the annual **De La Salle Institute** fifth and sixth grade girls' volleyball tournament. Teams came from Bridgeport Catholic Academy, Our Lady of Grace, St. Andrew, St. Barbara, St. Gabriel, St. Jerome, St. John the Baptist, St. Richard, Sheridan

School, and Walsh School. All-tournament most valuable player was Gabriella Passarelli from St. Jerome, located at 2810 S. Princeton Ave. Walsh School is at 2015 S. Peoria St.

OPEN HOUSE

St. Jerome Catholic School, 2801 S. Princeton Ave., will have an open house on Sunday, Jan. 28. The school is at 2801 S. Princeton Ave. Call (312) 842-7668.

ST. MATTHEW NEWS

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 2108 W. 21st St., (773) 847-6458, offers family counseling, including pre-marriage classes and marriage counseling. The soup kitchen welcomes gifts of cups, paper products, plates, silverware, napkins, paper towels, and toilet paper. Call (773) 847-6458.

ST. THERESE NEWS

St. Therese Chinese Catholic School (STCCS) is continuing its efforts to protect student, staff, and family safety. In November, it hosted an after-school self-defense class for students in grades three through eight; in December, it held self-defense classes for young adult siblings of students, graduates of STCCS, and parents in the community. The school is located at 247 W. 23rd St. Call (312) 326-2837.

LEAD WITH YOUR HEART

Santa Lucia School, 3017 S. Wells St., will host its Lead with Your Heart fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 10. Tickets are \$75 per person and include an open bar along with

SEND INFO FOR ATN

Local schools, churches, and institutions are welcome and encouraged to send information to *Gazette Chicago* for inclusion in the Around the Neighborhood section free of charge. News of upcoming events; student, faculty, staff, and parishioner accomplishments; and photos of events that have occurred are welcome. Please send information to info@gazettechicago.com in the month preceding the event—for example, news promoting February events should be sent to *Gazette Chicago* in January. The next deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 17, for the Feb. 2 issue.

RENE'S

AUTO PARTS & SERVICE

717 S. WESTERN AVE. • CHICAGO IL, 60612
Store (312)666-7950 Cell (312)301-0279

- Complete Auto Repair
- Fuel Injection Repair
- Brakes • Tune Ups
- Emission Testing

- Computer Diagnosis
- Air Conditioning Service
- Starters / Alternators
- We Make Keys

Domestic & Imports

Happy New Year!

May you and your loves ones have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018!

Donna Anello-Surma
New West Realty
Call 312-927-1434
dsurma@nwrchicago.com

Serving the Taylor, University Village, West Loop, South Loop, Bridgeport/Armour Square, Canaryville and Pilsen areas.

REAL ESTATE

Susy Corcoran
312-804-3457
susy.corcoran@cbexchange.com

Kiersten Shilney
773-715-9367
kiersten.shilney@cbexchange.com

Journeys By Janet
Custom Travel Experiences

312.238.9856

Janet Thompson
www.cruiseplanners.com

EXPLORE THE WORLD!
LAND & RIVER CRUISES
ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORTS
RESORTED TOURS
INDEPENDENT CUSTOM TRAVEL

raffle baskets, a money raffle, and paddle raises. All money raised supports the school. The event will honor fifth grade teacher Margaret Piegari, who has taught at the school for more than 38 years and will retire in June. Call (312) 326-1839.

2ND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 S. Michigan Ave., hosts its annual winter coat drive during January. Donations of warm socks, coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hoodies, gloves, scarves, caps, and mittens are welcome. Bring your items to the church from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call the church office at (312) 225-4951 or see the church website at www.2ndpresbyterian.org

SHRINE NEWS

The **Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii** is looking for liturgical and cultural event volunteers. Call (312) 421-3757. The shrine is located at 1224 W. Lexington St.

UIC INFORMATION

The **University of Illinois at Chicago** Flames men's basketball team in January will play home games against Green Bay on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m.; Milwaukee, Friday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m.; Oakland, Monday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m.; and IUPUI, Saturday, Jan 27, at 3 p.m. The women's team will play Thursday, Jan. 11, vs. Oakland, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 13, vs. Detroit Mercy, 3 p.m.; and Monday, Jan. 15, vs. Milwaukee, 1 p.m. Games are at the UIC Pavilion at Harrison Street and Racine Avenue. Call (312) 413-8421.

The Jane Addams Hull-House Museum at UIC is showing Claiming Space: Creative Grounds and Freedom Summer School, a collaborative exhibition by artists, educators, and students that explores transformation of public school space amidst the backdrop of depopulation, divestment, and school closures on the West Side.



Santa Lucia School will honor fifth grade teacher Margaret Piegari, who will retire in June, at its February 10 fundraiser.

The exhibition runs through Saturday, March 31, 2018, at the museum, 800 S. Halsted St.

SAFE ZONE

Meeting online buyers or sellers in person now is a little safer for both UIC personnel and the general public, thanks to the **University of Illinois at Chicago Police**. The department opened its district station front lobby to the public as a Safe Exchange Zone, where people can carry out legal swaps, sales, or purchases on campus as well as make child custody exchanges. Open 24 hours, the area has video surveillance and a seating area. The station is located at 943 W. Maxwell St., and parking is available.

ZOO FOR YOU

Lincoln Park Zoo is hosting the ZooLights winter festival, featuring 2.5 million lights nightly through Sun. Jan. 7. Hours are 4:30 to 9 p.m.

Ice skate at the rink in the Farm in the Zoo, welcoming skaters of all ages, now through Sun., Feb. 25 (select days). For dates and times, check website. Admission is \$5; skate rental is \$5 per pair. Warm up afterward in the main barn with special refreshments. The zoo is located at 2200 N. Cannon Dr. Call (312) 742-2000 or visit www.lpzoo.org.



The *Gazette* encourages you to participate in your local C.A.P.S. Program in 2018.

Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (C.A.P.S.) meetings in the 1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th, 12th, and 13th Districts, areas covered by *Gazette Chicago*, include:



1st District: 10th Sector beat meetings, Thurs., Jan. 11, 130 N. Garland Court, the Heritage Building, 6:30 p.m.; 20th Sector beat meetings, Tues., Jan. 9, 525 S. State St., University Center, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 131/132, Tues., Jan. 16, 1718 S. State St., 1st District Station, 6:30 p.m. Call (312) 745-4381.



2nd District: No beat meetings for the month of January. Call (312) 747-8366.



9th District: Beat 912, Wed., Jan. 10, 3625 S. Hoyne Ave., St. Maurice Church Hall, 7 p.m.; Beats 913/915, Tues., Jan. 9, 3120 S. Halsted St., 9th District Station community room, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 914, Wed., Jan. 24, 2100 S. Wentworth Ave., Chinatown Library, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 922, Tues., Jan. 23, 2611 W. 48th St., Shields Middle School, 6 p.m.; Beat 923, Tues., Jan. 23, 5157 S. California Ave., St. Simon Church Hall, 7 p.m.; Beat 925, Wed., Jan. 17, 4500 S. Wallace St., St. Gabriel Church, 6 p.m.; Beats 931/933, Thurs., Jan. 11, 1809 W 50th St., Cornell Square Park, 6 p.m.; Beats 932/934/935, Tues., Jan. 16, 850 W. Garfield Blvd., Westlawn Senior Homes, 6 p.m. Call (312) 747-3501.



10th District: Beat 1013, Wed., Jan. 17, 2524 S. Keeler Ave., Epiphany Church, 6 p.m.; Beat 1021, Tues., Jan. 9, 1448 S. Homan Ave., Caray Tercentenary Church, 6 p.m.; Beat 1033, Thurs., Jan. 11, 2311 S. Kedzie Ave., Little Village Library, 6 p.m. Call (312) 747-7190.



12th District: To be determined. Call (312) 746-8306. To learn more about C.A.P.S. programs, visit the Chicago Police Districts website: home.chicagopolice.org/community/districts/, tab: Get Involved with C.A.P.S.

To learn more about C.A.P.S. programs, visit the Chicago Police District's website: www.portal.chicagopolice.org, tab: CAPS, events, then select a district by number.

St. Malachy + Precious Blood Church
St. Malachy School
 2248/52 W. Washington Blvd.
 Chicago, IL 60612
 (312) 733-1068 Church
 (312) 733-2252 School
www.stmalachypreciousblood.org
www.stmalachychicago.com

Mass
Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 9:30am Eng.
11:30am Span.
M, T, W, Fri. 9:00am

Editorial

Father Time bids farewell to 2017 as Baby New Year looks to better the world in 2018

Are you old enough to remember the images on New Year's Eve of Father Time passing the baton of another year to Baby New Year?

There he was, Father Time, looking rather haggard and frail, leaning on his staff to keep upright, after watching over the world for 364 days, 23 hours, and the remaining ticking minutes of his time on Earth. It has always been backbreaking work. Over the centuries, wars have raged, famine and natural disasters have plagued the planet, democracies have been tested to the limit by madmen and dictators, and the middle and lower classes have struggled to keep pace as the rich and powerful maintain a stronghold on world economies and government.

As Father Time prepares to bid adieu to this world, he always sits down with Baby New Year during his last hour and offers him fatherly advice of what he saw and the work he couldn't accomplish. Baby New Year is just that—a baby, with all the promise and joy of a new beginning shining brightly on his face. With his rattle in hand, Baby New Year is ready to take on the challenges of the next 365 days. Little does he know what is in store for him, and how, he too, will finish his watch a much older, Father Time.

Wherever Father Time goes once the clock strikes twelve on New Year's Eve is anyone's guess, but we hope it's somewhere comfortable. It's a very difficult job and retirement should treat well all of the Father Times from throughout the history of the world. We could only guess what Father Time 2017 would have to say to his predecessors, as that was a doozy of a year.

We may not know the extent of that conversation, but we have something else to share with you. Normally, "exclusives" are found on page one of the newspaper. But, as we begin 2018, *Gazette Chicago* has something special for you. In the waning days of 2017, the phone rang late one evening at our editorial desk. It was Father Time himself. Little did we know, but he was an avid reader of ours. We learned his home base was in Chicago—easy to get around the world from here, he said. Father Time wanted to give us an exclusive: his transition conversation with Baby New Year.

So, just like in the movie, *Field of Dreams*, when noted author Terence Mann waded into that cornfield in Iowa to find out what was on the other side, *Gazette Chicago's* editor and publisher had a front row seat to an incredible moment in history. Here, in his own words, is what Father Time 2017 shared with Baby New Year 2018:

"Look at you. So excited to take on your role as Baby New Year! You know, I see so much of myself in those sparkly eyes of yours. Yes, yes, I was just like you—ready to do my best to watch over this wonderful world of ours. My task began on January 1, 2017—just as yours will begin within the next hour. Oh, the places you will see! Mother Earth is wonderful indeed and you will travel all over its creation.

"Oh, don't worry about me. Yes, I am much older than when I first started out, but that is all part of the cycle of life. I hope you age gracefully—but not at the breakneck speed that I did. 2017 was a difficult year indeed. It was even challenging for Father Time to sometimes keep pace.

"It is a tradition for Father Time to share his aspirations for the New Year and those tasks he could not complete, so listen attentively, Baby New Year, for there is much for you to do in 2018.

"I leave you a world that is longing for a hopeful future and strong leaders to guide them. I have traveled from sea to shining sea and I have seen the devastation being caused by global warming and climate change. It is very real and unless the leaders of the world's most powerful governments come together soon, I fear that the tasks of future Baby New Years will be far, far greater, or—Heaven help us—no longer needed.

"It's okay, don't be scared. There are many things like this to address and you will gain confidence as the days of the calendar turn. You must bring the United States back to the Paris climate agreement. The U.S. is the only country that has walked away and we cannot dismiss its decision as mere folly or ignorance—the fate of the world is at stake here. Encourage the American people to urge their elected officials to pressure President Donald Trump to return to the table. Seventy percent of Americans believe in climate change.

"Oh yes. President Trump. Well, I could spend my entire hour on what has happened in the United States this past year. We do have to touch on other parts of the world, but here is what you must do, Baby New Year, to help the fine people there. The world is not only watching, but it is taking its lead from Washington, DC.

"Continue to guide Americans through the Resist movement. It is working. More and more citizens are getting engaged in the political process and recent elections are showing positive results. It is not usually the case for Father Time to step into political waters, or to take party sides, but what is happening in America is downright harmful to its citizens and the rest of the world.



"The recent vote by the U.S. Congress to pass the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is a grave injustice. Middle class and lower income people will ultimately be hurt by this action, while the top 1% income earners will reap 86% of the benefits. The significant reductions that the very wealthy and large corporations have to pay are permanent, versus those that are much less and temporary for other wage earners.

"It is so sad to see and I fear the future will be even more challenging for those struggling to keep up with their bills and send their children off to college, or for the elderly to keep their homes and pay for medications. The argument among Republican leaders will be to slash Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid to cover the \$1.5 trillion deficit that will result from this bill. This will only hurt the middle class and low-income people even more. So much for the Republicans being "deficit hawks." It was appalling to learn that the President and many Senators who are involved in real estate development will reap windfall tax benefits in the millions of dollars (including Tennessee's Bob Corker who flipped his vote after this provision was added). This is not leadership, Baby New Year, this is some of the worst greed that I have ever seen. Only 25% of Americans support this bill—which Speaker of the House Paul Ryan inaccurately touts as one

GAZETTE CHICAGO

• Since 1983 •

Award Winning Local News Coverage That Makes A Difference

Editor and Publisher
Mark J. Valentino

Associate Editor
William S. Bike

Assistant Editor
Anne M. Nordhaus-Bike

Staff

Alexandra Brown, Patrick Butler, Dermot Connolly, Jackson Danbeck, Dolly Duplantier, Sheila Elliot, Susan Fong, Evita Hofmann, Lisa R. Jenkins, Robert Kingett, Jane Lawicki, Madeline Makoul, Jose Mesarina, Mara Perlow, Rick Romano, Amy Rothblatt, Ivette Sandoval, Jennifer Santoyo, Chuck Senties, Gabija Steponenaite, Susan S. Stevens, Igor Studenkov, Gabriella Valentino, Monica M. Walk, Marie Balice-Ward, Jennifer Wilberschied, Peter Winslow

Advertising Manager
Carmen P. Valentino

Photography Editor
Troy T. Heinzerth

Advertising Representative
Paula Valentino

Photographers
Tamara Bell, Lloyd DeGrane,

Circulation
Shylo Keck,
Jacob Urbanowski,
Anthony Valentino

Megan E. Doherty,
Christopher Valentino

Graphic Design
Kim Arias, Julie Becker, Greg Lochow



©2018. Near West/South Gazette, Inc. is an Illinois corporation which publishes monthly at 1335 W. Harrison St., Chicago, IL 60607-3318. The telephone number is (312) 243-4288. The fax number is (312) 243-4270. The Web site is: www.gazettechicago.com. E-mail address: info@gazettechicago.com. *Gazette Chicago* (ISSN 1068-8213) is distributed free on the first Friday of each month throughout the Near West Side/Tri-Taylor, University Village, South Loop, West Loop Gate, West Haven, Bridgeport/Armour Square, Chinatown, Bronzeville, East Pilsen, and Heart of Chicago communities. Advertising rates may be obtained through the above telephone number or on the *Gazette Chicago* website.

of the greatest accomplishments ever by a Congress and Administration.

“Protect the Affordable Care Act as much as you can. This tax bill eliminates the mandate that calls for Americans to have health insurance or pay a penalty. It has the threat of taking 13 million Americans off the health-care rolls. Even without one bit of publicity from the U.S. government last year, nearly nine million Americans signed up for the ACA—the same as the year prior when President Barack Obama encouraged people to do so. Americans are smart—many times much smarter than their leaders in Washington. As we speak, the approval rating for Congress is at only 14.7%. It was so childish and petty to hear the cries of “repeal and replace” Obamacare from Trump and Republican leaders in 2017, and yet they never could offer an alternative. Sixty percent of Americans want health-care for everyone.

“Find a way to help Americans protect net neutrality, as 83% of Americans support affordable and fair Internet access. This is a slippery slope that many Americans fear will lead to only more control by the rich and powerful in Washington and in big business.

“Guide the American public through powerful discourse and legislation on stricter and sane gun control legislation. I cried this year at an outdoor concert in Las Vegas and wept at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas when I witnessed the death and carnage from assault rifles. I sat in astonishment on the fifth anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy when President Trump hosted the National Rifle Association president in the White House that same day. Ninety-five percent of Americans want background checks on all guns and 65% want to ban assault rifles.

“Baby New Year, find a way to protect the Dreamers and help pass fair immigration laws. The DACA legislation protects those who came to America through no accord of their own. They are college graduates and contributing members of society, yet as we speak, immigration officials are arresting some of them and planning deportation procedures. The Trump Administration is threatening to separate children from their parents at the border when they attempt to come into the United States illegally. Yet, so many fewer Mexican people even want to come to anymore. They know they are not wanted there.

“Do your best to change the rhetoric in America. Help move it away from racial divide and hatred against Muslims, Latinos, and anyone of color. Help to show Americans that there is no place for white nationalism and white supremacy. Help preserve democracy in America; the U.S. has long been the standard bearer for the rest of the world, but sadly, 2017 has seen a vast decline in its position across the globe. A strong democracy benefits not only 330 million Americans, but also all those who yearn for freedom and peace in their homelands.

“There is no doubt that what is transpiring in Washington is emulating what has long taken place in Chicago. The rule of a one-party system and autocratic leaders is harmful. Father Time thinks that perhaps the Trump Administration and this Republican Congress might have had a watchful eye on Chicago where a City Council for decades has voted in lock-step in support of its Mayor. In 2017, Chicago noted the 30th anniversary of the death of Mayor Harold Washington. That was a rare time in its history when there was debate and difference of opinion in the City Council.

“The State of Illinois and the City of Chicago are a mess. Nearly four years of Governor Bruce Rauner have led to escalating debt due to a lack of State budgets. The 2018 election for governor is critical to Illinois’s future. The state dropped to the sixth most populated as Pennsylvania overtook it in 2017. Governor Rauner has been too busy trying to ram through his “Turnaround” agenda in a Democratically-controlled House then to govern from both sides of the aisle. All he has tried to do during his three years in office is to dismantle unions and lower the wages of hard working Illinois residents, not to mention the devastating affect his lack of budgets have had on social service agencies, healthcare institutions, and higher education. His list of 2017 accomplishments is as thin as President Trump’s. Do your best to ensure a fairly run Democratic primary to see who will surface as the best challenger to Rauner next fall, should he survive his own primary challenge in March.

“The situation in Chicago is much more dire than most people realize. Escalating pension costs are hammering the citizens with tax after tax. Property taxes are through the roof, as Mayor Rahm Emanuel finds no other avenues for income growth. His \$2.25 billion offer to Amazon must be watched carefully to see if it brings the jobs promised and doesn’t result in astronomical rent increases. Violence and crime are plaguing the citizenry. Jobs in long discarded communities are scarce, and that is leading to even more crime. Late in December, we learned that Facebook was allegedly unaware or uncooperative in assisting the Chicago Police Department in a sting of “secret pages” that offered the sale of illegal drugs and guns. Baby New Year, you must convince the American people to vote with their wallets when it comes to the lack of cooperation and understanding from large corporations.

“This Mayoral administration has failed woefully in addressing the homelessness crisis by doing little to increase adequate housing, restore mental health clinics, and increase the number of Chicago Housing Authority units.

“On December 19, I made my way to Old St. Patrick’s Church for the annual Homeless Persons Memorial service. It is coordinated by a number of local advocacy groups including the Ignatian Spirituality Project and the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. Schoolchildren from Frances Xavier Warde School processed with lighted candles for the victims of homelessness who died on Chicago’s streets in 2017. People like Wesley Sharp, who was described as a kind, patient, respectful man who is missed by his friends. Moriah Ishmael, who all he ever wanted was a place to call his own. And Durrell Williams, who was hard-working, and only looked forward to having a safe place to stay. They mentioned Renard Parrish, an advocate for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless who treated everyone fairly under Lower Wacker Drive. People like Barbara McHenry, Bethel-lyne Johnson, and Stanislaw Gal. I wept that night, too, Baby New Year, for those who perished and for the many who go about their business in this bustling city without ever thinking of those who are suffering.

“Please pay attention to the new initiative in Chicago to increase affordable housing that is tied to the Affordable Requirements Ordinance (ARO). The Near North and Near West areas need that type of a lift, but the formula for income levels is all wrong. Instead of lowering the income standards, the City has raised them. Advocates like Leah Levinger of the Chicago Housing Initiative and Mary Tarullo of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless are echoing the clarion call. Please help the citizens take notice of this project and if it needs to be readdressed. Time will only tell if the ARO leads to more SROs. I do not want you, Baby New Year, to spend part of your final days next December at Old St. Pat’s weeping over those who have died due to homelessness in Chicago.

“Oh, there is so much more to talk about, but the sands in the hourglass are diminishing and my time here on Earth is coming to an end. You will do fine, I know. You will stand on the shoulders of all the Fathers Time that went before you. You can also count on all the good people of Earth who seek peace and equality for all. Those who want all humanity to have access to healthcare and education and good wages. Those who want to protect Mother Earth and its entire splendor.

“I do hope that someday, as we usher in a future Baby New Year, that her eyes will sparkle just like yours and as her time slips away we say adieu to “Mother Time.” We need to open more doors for more women in America and across the globe.

“Farewell, Baby New Year. Bless you and Godspeed. Your time will pass quickly. Use it wisely and go out and do good in the world. We need you to do so much for so many in 2018.”



You’ve seen the biscuit... Now come taste it!

Rated one of the 100 Best Eats of 2009 by *TimeOut Chicago* –
“The seriously buttery biscuits explain everything.”

Sweet Maple Cafe
It's more than breakfast

Breakfast • Lunch • Brunch • Catering • Open 7 am – 2 pm every day

1339 W. Taylor St., Chicago • 312-243-8908

sweetmaplecafe.com

C. GALLUCCI REALTY, INC.

Real Estate Sales & Management

1355 W. TAYLOR STREET
(312) 421-1355



C. GALLUCCI REALTY, INC.
WISHES YOU A HAPPY,
HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR!
2018

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR RENT

LITTLE ITALY
UNIVERSITY VILLAGE
TRI-TAYLOR
WEST LOOP
PILSEN
BRIDGEPORT
&
SURROUNDING AREAS

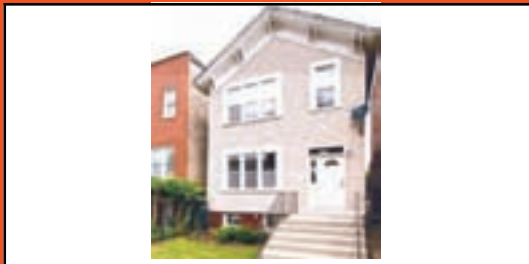
**CALL FOR
AVAILABILITY**



1408 W. TAYLOR STREET #201
THREE BEDROOM-TWO BATH CONDO Located in the Little Italy/University Village Area. Features Include: HW Floors in Living Area, Wall-to-Wall Carpeting in Bedrooms. 42" Cherry Kitchen Cabs w/ Granite Countertops PLUS Island w/Breakfast Eating Area. Full Line of SS Apps, Recessed Can Lighting & Ceiling Fans. Master Bedroom w/Master Bath, Double Bowl Vanity, Tub and Separate Shower. Garage Parking. Elevator Building. Walking Distance to University of Illinois & Medical Center.
\$479,000



PRICE REDUCED
827 S. LAFLIN STREET
VERY RARE to Market Oversized 3-Unit Apartment Building in Uptown Chicago. Spacious Units w/Central Air & Heat, Tall Ceilings & Great Floorplans. Off-Street Parking for 3-Cars. Potential to Duplex into 6 Units. Great Opportunity for Owner Occupant or Condo Conversion. Easy to Rent. Rapidly Appreciating and Special Location.
CONTRACT PENDING
\$1,049,000



2416 W. FILLMORE
TURNKEY INVESTMENT in Rapidly Appreciating Tri-Taylor Area. Walking Distance to the UIC/Rush Medical District and Taylor Street. Two Recently Remodeled 2-Bedroom Apartments w/Modern Floorplans. Cherry Hardwood Floors. In-Unit Laundry. Full Kitchen w/SS Apps. Spa Baths w/ Glass Showers. Potential to Duplex. Full Basement. Large Front Yard and Back Patio. Two Car Garage. Call for Details. Tenants Pay Their Own Utilities.
SOLD
\$399,000



FREE PROPERTY EVALUATION FREE



C. GALLUCCI REALTY, INC.
Real Estate Sales & Management

24 Hour Phone Service
(312) 421-1355

1355 West Taylor Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607

STOP BY AND PICK UP YOUR FREE 2018 MAGNET CALENDAR

It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other brokers. If your property is currently listed with a Real Estate broker, please disregard our offer. We are happy to work with them and cooperate fully.

