

### INSIDE



South Loop celebrating opening of new school in community. See Around the Neighborhood beginning on page 20.



*Gazette Chicago* endorses Lori Lightfoot, reformer, for Mayor. See page 24.



**Combine learning and fun at variety of summer camps.** See page 27.

#### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Local ward totals in mayoral election show interesting variations and percentages. See page 2.

State Rep. Conyears-Ervin faces Ald. Pawar for City Treasurer. See page 3.

Byrne Interchange construction will last until 2022. See page 18.

# Acevedo, Sigcho-Lopez square off for 25th Ward aldermanic seat

#### By Eva Hoffmann

The 25th Ward, which covers parts of Pilsen, the Near West Side/Taylor Street, the South Loop, and Chinatown, is the only ward in this area in which no candidate received more than 50% of the vote on Feb. 26. Consequently, the top two finishers, Alex Acevedo and Byron Sigcho-Lopez, will be on the ballot April 2, and the winner will become alderman of the 25th Ward, succeeding Daniel Solis, the longtime alderman



who did not run again after his finances were investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and he wore an undercover wire for the FBI when talking to other elected officials and developers.

Sigcho-Lopez garnered 2,885 votes for 29.23%, while Acevedo received 2,182 votes for 22.11% in the first round. Other candidates were Hilario Dominguez, 2,056 for 20.83%; Aida Flores, 1,912 for 19.37%; and Troy Antonio Hernandez, 835 for 8.46%.

#### Alex Acevedo

Born and raised in the 25th Ward, **Alex Acevedo** is a pediatric nurse and community organizer. He has spent the last ten years delivering mobile health care to seniors and people with disabilities, providing public safety workshops, and organizing youth programs.

Continued on page 13

### Rent control ban moving through Illinois legislature

#### **By Patrick Butler**

Jawanza Malone of the Lift the Ban Coalition, a grassroots group that has been trying for over a year to repeal the State law barring rent controls in Chicago, said things are looking better than ever.

"We anticipate a vote on not one but two bills coming out this session" of the Illinois General Assembly," Malone said. "It looks encouraging," she added, noting most local lawmakers already are on board.

Continued on page 16



WEST LOOP IMPROVEMENTS—Fulton Market is undergoing infrastructure upgrades for a new streetscape. The CTA is adding a new Green Line el station as well. See article on page 10.

### Strong resistance to move to appoint County Assessor

#### By Dan Kolen

Chicago's mayoral race, machine politics, and regressive property assessment all stood at the center of a move to unseat reformer and Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi from office once his first term ended. State Representative Rob Martwick (D-19th, Northwest Side) introduced HB 3605 to turn the assessor's position from an elected position to one appointed by the president of the County Board, now Toni Preckwinkle.

After public officials and the assessor's office voiced significant opposition to the proposal, Martwick has no plans to continue moving the bill forward, according to the assessor's office.

The bill stirred up a public fight between mayoral candidate Lori Lightfoot and Martwick during the campaign, as Lightfoot accused Martwick of doing her mayoral opponent and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle's bidding by attempting to change how the county chooses the assessor. Martwick publicly endorsed Preckwinkle, while Preckwinkle distanced herself from the bill and Martwick. She claimed she did not coordinate with Martwick to introduce the bill.

"I value Rep. Martwick's input and expertise on education policy and am proud to have his support," Preckwinkle said. "But he is not a surrogate for me on this *Continued on page 8* 

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### Ward totals in February mayoral election show interesting variations

#### By William S. Bike

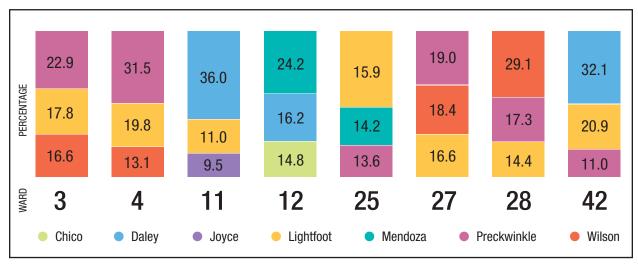
*Gazette Chicago*-endorsed mayoral candidate Lori Lightfoot and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle move on to the April 2 general election after finishing in the top two spots with the highest vote totals in the Feb. 26 election, but results were not necessarily consistent in the six wards that comprise this community.

Along with Lightfoot and Preckwinkle, candidates were Gery Chico, William M. Daley, Amara Enyia, Robert Fioretti, LaShawn Ford, Jerry Joyce, John Kozlar, Garry McCarthy, Susana A. Mendoza, Neal Sales-Griffin, Paul Vallas, and Willie L. Wilson.

The 3rd Ward saw 13,132 ballots cast out of 37,694 registered for a 34.84% turnout, and a win for Preckwinkle with Lightfoot second. Totals were Preckwinkle, 3,007, 22.9%; Lightfoot, 2,336, 17.8%; Wilson, 2,178, 16.6%; Daley, 1,735, 13.2%; Enyia, 1,238, 9.4%; Mendoza, 644, 4.9%; Vallas, 497, 3.8%; Chico, 472, 3.6%; Joyce, 382, 2.9%; McCarthy, 169, 1.3%, Fioretti, 154, 1.2%; Ford, 140, 1.1%, Sales-Griffin, 42, 0.3%; and Kozlar, 42, 0.3%.

In the 4th Ward, there were 13,960 ballots cast out of 36,065 registered for a 38.71% turnout and a Preckwinkle win, with Lightfoot second. Totals were Preckwinkle, 4,398, 31.5%; Lightfoot, 2,759, 19.8%; Wilson, 1,824, 13.1%; Enyia, 1,553, 11.1%; Daley, 1,277, 9.1%; Mendoza, 547, 3.9%; Vallas, 398, 2.9%; Chico, 347, 2.5%; Joyce, 250, 1.8%; Ford, 177, 1.3%; Fioretti, 151, 1.1%; McCarthy, 123, 0.9%; Sales-Griffin, 55, 0.4%; and Kozlar, 31, 0.2%.

The 11th Ward is the heart of the old Democratic machine, but with 28,300 voters and 10,335 ballots cast, both its number of registered voters and its turnout of 36.52% fell below that of some other wards. Daley won, but Lightfoot finished a surprising second. Totals were Daley, 3,728, 36.0%;



In this community, Lori Lightfoot won the 25th Ward and f nished second in the 3rd, 4th, 11th, and 42nd.

Lightfoot, 1,151, 11.0%; Joyce, 982, 9.5%; Preckwinkle, 778, 7.5%; Chico, 710, 6.9%; Enyia, 645, 6.2%; Mendoza, 640, 6.2%; McCarthy, 531, 5.1%; Vallas, 472, 4.6%; Kozlar, 268, 2.6%; Wilson, 236, 2.3%; Fioretti, 64, 0.6%; Ford, 31, 0.3%; and Sales-Griffin, 14, 0.2%.

The 12th Ward saw 5,871 ballots cast out of 20,387 registered voters for a 28.8% turnout and a Mendoza win. Totals were Mendoza, 1,422, 24.2%; Daley, 951, 16.2%; Chico, 867, 14.8%; Preckwinkle, 484, 8.2%; Lightfoot, 468, 8.0%; Enyia, 445, 7.6%; Joyce, 433, 7.4%; McCarthy, 220, 3.7%; Vallas, 184, 3.1%; Wilson, 142, 2.4; Kozlar, 41, 0.7%; Fioretti, 34, 0.6%; Ford, 22, 0.4%; Sales-Griffin, 16, 0.3%.

In the 25th Ward, there were 9,803 ballots cast out of 29,680 registered for a 33.03% turnout. In a ward with a large Hispanic population, Lightfoot scored a surprising first place finish over Mendoza. Totals were Lightfoot, 1,553, 15.9%; Mendoza, 1,394, 14.2%; Preckwinkle, 1,331, 13.6%; Daley, 1,298, 13.2%; Enyia, 1,188, 12.1%; Chico, 1,013, 10.3%; Joyce, 518, 5.3%; Wilson, 403, 4.1%; Vallas, 391, 4.0; McCarthy, 212, 2.2%; Fioretti, 91, 0.9%; Kozlar, 63, 0.6%; Ford, 53, 0.5%; and Sales-Griffin, 32.0.3%

The 27th Ward, with 37,398 voters, saw 10,176 come out for

a 27.21% turnout and a Preckwinkle win. Totals were Preckwinkle, 1,936, 19.0%; Wilson, 1,870, 18.4%; Lightfoot, 1,687, 16.6%; Daley, 1,475, 14.5%; Enyia, 883, 8.7%; Mendoza, 610, 6.0%; Chico, 392, 3.9%; Vallas, 354, 3.5%; Joyce, 268, 2.5%; Fioretti, 204, 2.0%; Ford, 182, 1.8%; McCarthy, 160, 1.6%; Sales-Griffin, 37, 0.4%, and Kozlar, 36, 0.4%.

In the 28th Ward, out of 33,061 voters, 8,195 came out for a 24.79% turnout and a Wilson win. Totals were Wilson, 2,385, 29.1%; Preckwinkle, 1,415, 17.3%; Lightfoot, 1,182, 14.4%; Daley, 802, 9.8%; Enyia, 688, 8.4%; Mendoza, 356, 4.3%; Ford, 293, 3.6%; Chico, 290, 3.5%; Vallas, 246, 3.0%; Joyce, 201, 2.5%; Fioretti, 113, 1.4%; McCarthy, 89, 1.0%; Sales-Griffin, 23, 0.3%; and Kozlar, 20, 0.2%.

The 42nd Ward has 43,577 registered voters, and 13,013 of them voted for a 29.86% turnout. Daley won, but Lightfoot came in a strong second. Totals were Daley, 4,180, 32.1%; Lightfoot, 2,718, 20.9%; Preckwinkle, 1,438, 11.0%; Vallas, 947, 7.3%; Mendoza, 865, 6.6%; Chico, 674, 5.2%; McCarthy, 540, 4.1%; Enyia, 530, 4.1%; Joyce, 516, 4.0%; Wilson, 296, 2.3%; Fioretti, 94, 0.7; Kozlar, 78, 0.6%; Sales-Griffin, 54, 0.4%; and Ford, 50, 0.4%.

"Lori Lightfoot did surprisingly

well, especially in white and Latino wards, because her message of reform and change resonated with voters," said Dick Simpson," professor of political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

#### **Progressive turnout**

"Where voters turned out to support reform or progressive aldermanic candidates like in the 25th Ward, and all along the North Lakefront wards which she carried, she did well. Even in African American wards, Lori was frequently the second or third choice among voters, even if a Willie Wilson or Preckwinkle was first," Simpson continued.

"The early polls show her leading in the runoff election, but the vote will get closer as the race tightens.

"All of this is why Preckwinkle is running an attacking campaign because she has to do so to win," Simpson noted. "However, the charge that Lori is not a reformer is not going to stick. And Preckwinkle has to defend raising the sales tax and the dreaded soda tax.

"It will depend upon who can win over the supporters of the other candidates and attract new voters in the runoff in all these wards," Simpson said. "At the moment, smart money is on Lightfoot, but it is not over."



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### **Competitive City Treasurer race features local State Rep, North Side Alderman**

#### By Rick Romano

The City Treasurer race has not been considered competitive for more than a decade, but now two candidates—Near West Side 10th District State Representative Melissa Conyears-Ervin and North Side 47th Ward Alderman Ameya Pawar—are vying for the post.

In the first electoral round on Feb. 26, Conyears-Ervin received 224,183 votes for 44.3%, Pawar received 210,356 for 41.6%, and Peter Gariepy received 71,479 for 14.1%. Because nobody received more than 50%, the top two vote recipients, Conyears-Ervin and Pawar, moved on to the next round.

In preparation for the April 2 election, the candidates outlined their respective backgrounds and what they expect to bring to the office.

#### Melissa Conyears-Ervin

**Melissa Conyears-Ervin** was elected State Representative in 2016. She sponsored the improved Illinois education formula bill, directing \$221 million in additional funding to the Chicago Public Schools. She also was the chief sponsor of bipartisan legislation that protected funding for child care assistance to help working parents.

Conyears-Erwin serves on several legislative committees: Appropriations for Elementary and Secondary Education, Business Incentives for Local Communities, Economic Opportunity, Health Care Availability and Access, Property and Casualty Insurance, and Transportation.

Prior to her State post, Conyears-Ervin served in multiple managerial jobs at Allstate Insurance. During her Allstate stint, she earned a master's degree in business administration and finance at Roosevelt University to add to her previous bachelor's of science degree in finance from Eastern Illinois University. Also at Allstate, she became executive-in-residence, working at Breakthrough Urban Ministries, a charitable organization in Garfield Park.

She said the experience opened her eyes to the plight of the homeless and others affected by poverty.

"I knew then that I had to have a more direct effect on what was going on around me," she said.

Conyears-Ervin was born on Continued on page 4



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### *Competitive City Treasurer race features local State Rep, North Side Alderman*

#### Continued from page 3

Chicago's South Side and raised in the city's Austin neighborhood. She and her husband, 28th Ward Alderman Jason Ervin, and their young daughter live in Garfield Park.

#### Her Treasurer approach

"I bring a unique perspective because of my background in finance," she said. "I'm looking to expand the office."

That expansion hinges on four key points.

First, have the treasurer's office responsible for the Council Office of Financial Analysis (COFA) to better provide the mayor, City Council, and public with critical information about the City's finances and budget. This would be designed to improve analysis of bond issues, revenue projections and budget impact statements.

COFA analyzes and reviews the City's annual proposed budget and makes recommendations on spending reforms. "Right now, it's part of the mayor's administration," Conyears-Ervin said. "That's like the fox watching the henhouse. We need to look at what's under the hood."

Second, the treasurer's office would conduct a financial analysis – including audits – of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and sister agencies.

Third, have the treasurer's office perform audits and financial reporting of Chicago's pension funds.

"That's because we want to know how those funds are being invested and ensure that we are getting the best possible return on those funds," Conyears-Ervin said. "That has been an important issue for the City, so we need to get a handle on that."

Fourth, the treasurer will create and utilize a web portal containing all past as well as future financial analysis, audits and related material of all city financial bodies.

Because she focuses on fund investment, Conyears-Ervin favors banks supporting the needs of residents throughout the city.

"There has been a lot of talk about a public bank in the city created through the State Legislature," she said. "I am more interested in help for right now. On day one, I will begin talking to bank CEOs about meeting the needs of those who don't have access to the banking industry."

Conyears-Ervin said she wants to fight against certain populations' perceived lack of access to capital and financing.

"We want to make sure that we



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are investing so money is working for us and that all communities are represented," she said. For more information, go to

For more information, go to www.melissaforchicago.com.

#### Ameya Pawar

**Ameya Pawar** was elected Alderman of the North Side 47th Ward in 2011, making him the first Indian-American and Asian-American elected to Chicago's City Council. He was re-elected in 2015.

As Alderman, Pawar said he has led 12 pieces of legislation on tax increment financing reform, guaranteeing earned sick time, combating wage theft, and protecting and preserving affordable housing "for Chicago's most vulnerable."

Pawar's City Council committee memberships are Budget and Government Operations; Council Office of Financial Analysis Oversight; Economic, Capital, and Technology Development; Special Events, Cultural Affairs, and Recreation; Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards; Public Safety; and Rules and Ethics.

In his ward, Pawar launched Grow47, a comprehensive initiative to link local schools with their



Melissa Conyears-Ervin.

respective neighborhoods. The stand-alone nonprofit now works with schools across the North Side.

While in office in 2014, he authored a textbook on the connection between disaster and poverty and a socially constructed narrative around deserving underserved populations.

Pawar earned a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy from Missouri Valley College and a master's degree in public administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He also has two master's degrees from the University of Chicago, one in threat and *Continued on page 8* 

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### Competitive City Treasurer race features local State Rep, North Side Alderman

#### Continued from page 4

response management, the other in social service administration. He also is a U.S. State Department Critical Language Program alum and a fall 2018 McCormick Foundation executive fellow.

Pawar was born in Chicago. As a youngster, his family moved to unincorporated Des Plaines, IL.

He lives with his wife and their

#### young daughter in the city's Lincoln Square neighborhood.

#### His Treasurer approach

Pawar said he is running for City Treasurer to drive reform and social change after tackling those issues from a legislative perspective.

"The first thing I would do is divest from fossil fuels and begin



The Bertucci family, owners of Fabulous Freddies Italian Eatery in Bridgeport, has opened a new, fullservice regional Italian dining concept, Tria, located a level above Freddies restaurant at 701 W. 31st St.

Tria's take on Italian food touches on authentic dishes from different regions of Italy. The inspiration for Tria came after a Bertucci family trip to Italy turned into a culinary adventure in which they curated Tria's menu based on the best and most interesting dishes they experienced in different regions of the country.

Freddie and Denise Bertucci opened their first Chicago-based food business over 30 years ago and have since grown into a family of entrepreneurial restauranteurs including their three daughters, Christie, Stephanie, and Brittany. The sisters have together spearheaded Tria, which translates to "three" in Italian, and have chosen to celebrate their family's Southern European heritage through the restaurant's weekend brunch and week-long dinner menus which include such items as arancini-fried risotto and marinara; braciloa-polenta and san marzano; hrvatska frittata-cevapcici, feta, and onions, served with a side of potatoes; buon giorno breakfast paninifresh mozzarella, pesto, tomato, fried egg, and prosciutto; and red velvet mascarpone crepes-mascarpone, berries, Nutella, and Continued on page 17



working on where all of our fees go—what big fees we pay to big banks and how we invest our pension funds," he said.

Noting "we need to go big and bold," he said he would "democratize" investments, focusing on green initiatives while providing relief to students with loans and to those who want to create businesses that are good for neighborhoods.

"When we invest in green infrastructures and affordable housing, we get denser and more affordable housing options," Pawar said. "Support for small business creation is important because small business creates the most amount of jobs. We need to get funds into the hands of entrepreneurs.

"We also will work for those who want to go to college," he said. "We want to lower the cost of loans. Imagine the difference it would mean if we could lower rates from 7.5% to 5%."

Pawar also notes the importance of getting the most out of investing pension funds, focusing on improving the quality of life for those who depend on that income.



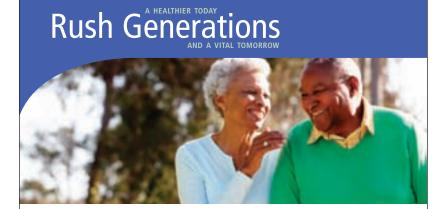
Ameya Pawar.

One of his initiatives, Pawar said, is selling shares of a major Chicago asset: water.

"We want to take that asset and make it public so that everyone in Chicago can benefit from ownership" he said, noting he would base this policy on a model in which Alaska shares oil revenues with residents. He also noted Norway uses its oil revenues to convert to clean energy.

"These are the kinds of initiatives that we can follow," Pawar said.

For more information, go to www.pawarforchicago.com.



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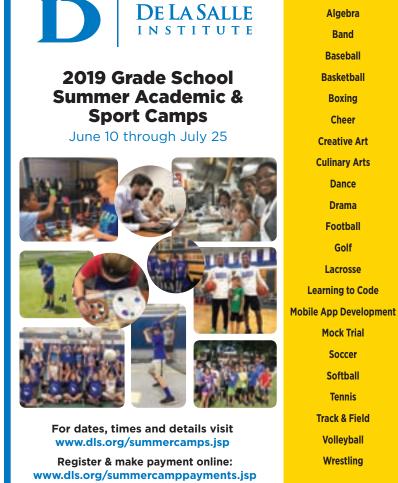
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### Move to appoint County Assessor receives strong resistance

Continued from page 1

issue because we clearly do not agree. We did not have any conversations about his legislation to appoint the Cook County Assessor, and I absolutely do not support the legislation."

On Feb. 18, Preckwinkle and Kaegi released a joint statement dismissing the House Bill, saying lawmakers should not change how the county chooses the assessor.

"The Cook County Assessor is, and should continue to be, an elected position so that it remains directly accountable to the residents of the county," Kaegi and Preckwinkle said in the joint statement.

When *Gazette Chicago* polled State Representatives and Senators in its coverage area, lawmakers gave little response and no support for the bill.

"I am for democracy and believe the voters should choose," said Lamont Robinson, State Representative of the 5th District.

"I do not support HB 3605," said Delia C. Ramirez, State Representative of the 4th District. "I believe that the office of assessor needs to be accountable to the voters of Cook County, especially in light of recent reports of corruption and abuse by the former assessor."

"Most folks have had that dis-

cussion, and the result of that discussion is that the position should remain elected by the people," said Scott Smith, chief communications officer for the assessor's office. "We're happy to discuss the best way to reform this office, but we obviously think elected officials keep politicians in check."

"In principle, the idea of making the assessor position appointed is not particularly bad, but in this specific case it's bad based on what Kaegi is planning to do for tax assessment in the county," said Dick Simpson, professor of political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "You need some positions that are elected, and have some checks. However some other positions are administrative, and shouldn't be elected."

According to Simpson, with nine elected positions on the county board, elected administrative positions could be changed to appointments without causing a problem to county functioning.

#### Kaegi's plans

The Cook County Assessor has responsibility for fair and accurate valuation of the county's 1.8 million parcels of property. Releasing a 100-Day Plan upon assuming office, Kaegi's outlook for the office centers around improving



A bill to make Assessor Fritz Kaegi's of ce appointed instead of elected appears to be going nowhere.

the methods and processes for tax assessment, reorganizing the office's employees, and overhauling its technology and communication systems.

"Our goal is to make the assessor's office ethical, transparent, and fair," Smith said. "We feel like we've done quite a bit in the first 100 days, but we have a lot more work to do. Fairer and more accurate assessments, that's our focus."

Reports of an unethical property tax assessment system spurred Kaegi's run for office. A 2018 study by Professor Christopher Berry at the Municipal Finance Center at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy estimated that, between 2011 and 2015, \$2.2 billion or more in property taxes shifted from undervalued Chicago homes onto overvalued ones.

The shift in general benefited richer homeowners while penalizing lower income ones. It removed up to \$1 billion the tax bills for properties valued in Chicago's top 10%, according to the study. At the time, the assessor's office dismissed the study as a political move. The non-profit Civic Consulting Alliance (CCA) a month earlier had released similar findings, however.

The CCA said in its report that the organization "found that the residential assessment system is more variable and more regressive than agreed upon industry standards, causing a wealth transfer from owners of lower-value homes to those of higher-value homes."

Preckwinkle commissioned the CCA study to see what the issues were, in response to a *Chicago Tribune* series in 2017 that showed problems in the City's property assessment process.

After being elected to reform the assessment process, Kaegi and his office have attempted to improve the office's operations



compared to the days when it was under the jurisdiction of his predecessor as assessor, Democratic Party regular Joseph Berrios.

#### Impact on mayoral race

When Martwick introduced the bill, Lightfoot took it as her cue to highlight ties among Martwick, Preckwinkle, and Berrios.

"Both Martwick and Preckwinkle have stood by Joe Berrios, the former County Assessor who actively impeded the reform of a broken property tax system, is pushing black and brown families out of the city, and is really causing economic harm," Lightfoot said in a February press conference. "This is a power grab by a Preckwinkle ally."

Martwick, who endorsed Preckwinkle for mayor, entered into a shouting match with Lightfoot when she openly criticized the bill at the press conference. "This sort of Trump-style behavior where you're trying to draw attention to yourself without assessing the facts of the situation shows exactly why you are wholly unprepared to be the mayor of this city," Martwick said.

Later in a statement his office released, Martwick said, "I called Assessor Kaegi after filing the bill late last week to inform him that I wanted solely to have a discussion on the idea. I told him I would not move the bill over his objections."

While the bill apparently is not moving forward, the negative impact on Preckwinkle's attempt to become Chicago's mayor will remain unknown until election day, April 2. The bill gave Lightfoot an opportunity to tie her opponent to the unsavory side of Chicago's machine politics.

"To look the other way as the old political machine sputters on, this power grab is indicative of an unethical leadership style we've seen over and over again with Preckwinkle," Lightfoot said.





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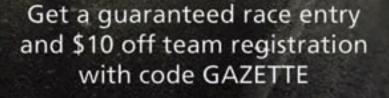


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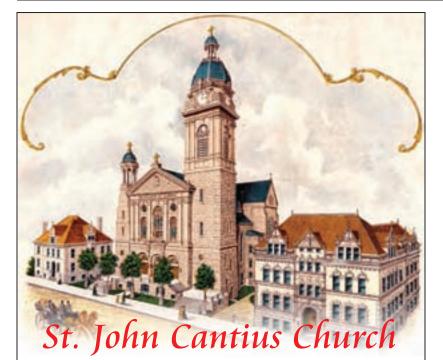
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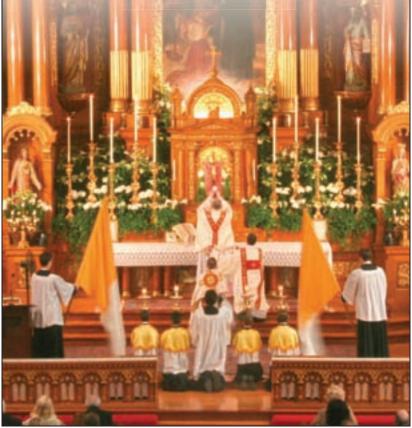
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GOOD FRIDAY 3:00 pm — Service of the Lord's Passion

EASTER VIGIL Saturday, 10:00 pm — Great Paschal Vigil

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7:30 am — Extraordinary Form, Latin Low Mass 9:00 am — Ordinary Form, English Mass 10:30 am — Ordinary Form, Latin Mass with Choir 12:30 pm — Sølemn High Latin Mass with Choir and Orchestra



# Streetscape improvements, new el station underway in West Loop area

#### By Igor Studenkov

Two major infrastructure and transportation projects are poised to affect the West Loop significantly.

The Fulton Market Streetscape Improvement project will renovate the portion of Fulton Street running through the community to make it more friendly to pedestrians and cars. The Damen/Lake Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Green Line el station will add a station to a long stretch of track between the Ashland/Lake and California/Lake stations, providing elevated train service to the United Center and burgeoning new development around what used to be the Henry Horner Homes public housing development.

#### First phase completed

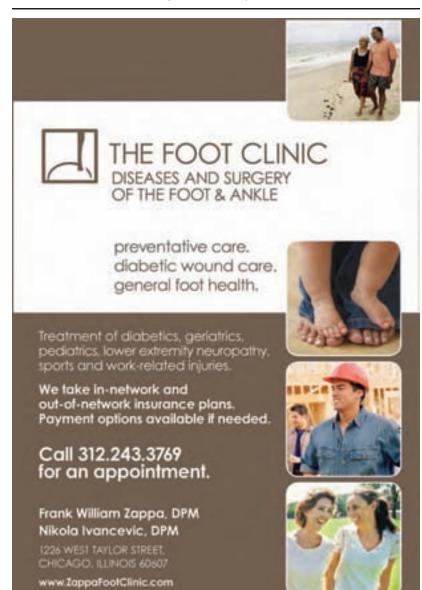
Workers completed the first phase of Fulton Market streetscape improvements last November, with the second phase scheduled to conclude by the end of 2019. Meanwhile, workers already have started preliminary work on the Damen/Lake station, with construction expected finish next year.

Fulton Street is a major thoroughfare that gave Fulton Market District its name. The neighborhood traditionally has been home to wholesalers, meatpackers, and other food processing businesses, and City planners designed much of the streetscape to accommodate trucks, without much thought about the needs of regular car traffic and pedestrians.

The Fulton Market Streetscape project aims to change that by improving the section of Fulton Street between Halsted Street and Ogden Avenue. The first phase renovated the stretch between Halsted and Carpenter Streets, and Phase II will upgrade the Carpenter-Ogden segment. According to the City, together, the two phases will cost \$20.3 million.

The project has been in the works for five years. The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Chicago Department of Planning and Development worked with several area stakeholders, including the West Loop Community Organization (WLCO), on the plan. The City also held several public meetings to give local residents and businesses an opportunity to give input on both phases.

Phase I construction kicked off in 2017 and officially reached completion on Nov. 27, 2018. The City widened sidewalks, added



painted crosswalks on all sides of every intersection, and installed cobblestone pavement in the intersections themselves. Workers also more defined parking spaces for cars and trucks more clearly, added planters with benches on the sidewalks near the intersection east of Morgan Street, and made intersections accessible to people with disabilities.

Looking at specific sections, on the portion between Green and Peoria Streets, the plan calls for ten bike racks on both sides of the street. The project put in new seats and "leaners"—seat-like structures half an average person's size—on both sides of the section between Morgan and Sangamon streets.

Ald. Walter Burnett (27th), whose ward includes all of the Fulton Market District, said, "The Fulton Market Streetscape Project is already providing a safer environment for pedestrians and creating a more vibrant neighborhood. The success of the plan was evident this summer during the Fulton Market Expo held in the corridor."

In her remarks during the ceremony marking the end of Phase I, WLCO Executive Director Carla Agostinelli reflected that, while it was important to honor Fulton Market's history, so was meeting the needs of residents and businesses here today.

CDOT commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld touted the community-



The Chicago Transit Authority is adding a new Green Line el station at Damen Avenue and Lake Street in the West Loop community.

centric approach of the streetscape design.

"The Fulton Market Streetscape Project is a great demonstration of CDOT's commitment to designing streetscapes that build on a neighborhood's unique features," she said. "Every streetscape project requires a fresh approach. We were very pleased to be able to work with community stakeholders to come up with a flexible design that accommodates the evolving land uses and preserves Fulton Market's historic feel while harnessing the creative energy that has blossomed in the neighborhood in recent years."

Phase II improvements will follow a similar design, with painted crosswalks and planters with benches near the intersections. Workers will widen the south sidewalk from 16 to 22 inches; maintain raised sidewalks on the north side but add ramps to improve accessibility, and install new light poles with energy efficient lights at several segments. CDOT will add a traffic signal at Ogden Avenue and put in a Divvy bike sharing station at the northwest corner of the intersection of May and Fulton Streets.

According to the City, Phase II will conclude by the end of this year.

#### Damen/Lake el station

Like the Morgan/Lake Street Green Line CTA el station before it, the Damen/Lake stop is not, strictly speaking, brand new. Workers erected the original station in 1893 in the standard Queen Anne style that only one of the original stations, Ashland/Lake, still retains.

Like the original Morgan/Lake station, the original Damen/Lake station closed in 1948 as part of the CTA's plan to speed up service along line. Workers demolished the station in 1949. In 2002, CDOT conducted a study on returning some of the "infill" stations on the portions of the Green Line where the distance between stations was longer than average and identified Morgan/Lake, McCormick Place at Cermak Road, and Damen/Lake as potential spots for stations.

The first two went up and reopened in 2012 and 2015, respectively. On Feb. 9, 2017, the City and CTA announced they would build the Damen/Lake station.

At the time, officials billed the station as a way to provide a better connection to the United Center, located only a few blocks south, and capitalize on growing development around former Henry Horner Homes public housing development, which officials redeveloped into the West Haven mixed-income housing.

Continued on page 12

# $\begin{array}{c} \mbox{Mile Square Health Center} \\ Urgent Care \end{array}$

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### Streetscape improvements, new el station underway in West Loop area

#### Continued from page 11

Chicago-based architectural firm Perkins+Will came up with a design that echoes aspects of the Morgan/Lake station and the Cicero/Lake station further west. Like the former, it features glass extensively to create a sense of transparency, and an overhead bridge allows easy movement between platforms. Unlike the overhead bridge at Morgan/Lake and many other Green Line stations, this one will jut south, past the inbound platform, to provide a spot where passengers can look at the neighborhood below.

Like Cicero/Lake, it will feature a large stationhouse—in this case, on the southwest corner of the Lake/Damen intersection—with plenty of space for riders to wait for United Center bound Route 50 Damen Avenue CTA buses. The high-capacity stairs and escalators would be similar to those at the Addison Red Line el station near Wrigley Field for the same crowd-related reasons.

While the Morgan/Lake station has fare gates on both sides of the station, Damen/Lake is more akin to the Cicero/Lake station in that it has several exits—in this case, at each end of both platforms but the stationhouse will provide the only entrance. Riders wishing



Mayor Rahm Emanuel joined Alderman Walter Burnett (27th Ward) and West Loop stakeholders to cut the ribbon on the Fulton Market streetscape.

to get on Oak Park-bound trains must use the overhead bridge to cross over.

The reason came down to accessibility requirements. If the CTA installed an entrance on the outbound platform, it would need to make it accessible, requiring an additional CTA station attendant and increasing staffing costs for the station.

Perkins+Will stated the station's glass and transparent surfaces create "a station that is safe, where patrons have clear sight lines within the station and to and from the street, supporting its use at all hours of the day and night."

Douglas Smith, the company's managing principal, said Perkins+Will is tapping its global experience in designing modern stations.

"The Green Line station will draw on the lessons we have learned in designing transit projects from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Chongqing City, China, but will reflect the specific needs of CTA passengers in Chicago and the West Side community," he stated.

The CTA and CDOT broke ground on April 25, 2018. Since then, the

two transit agencies have been relocating el track support columns at the Damen/Lake intersection and making streetscape improvements to lay groundwork for the new station.

The CTA expects the station to open sometime in 2020.

For Burnett, log on to aldermanburnett.com. For CDOT, log on to www.chicago.gov/city/en/ depts/cdot.html. The CTA website is www.transitchicago.com. The Perkins+Will website is https:// perkinswill.com. ForWLCO, log on to https://westloop.org/.





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### Acevedo, Sigcho-Lopez square off for 25th Ward aldermanic seat

Continued from page 1

On the question of gentrification, Acevedo said, "We have to think about multiple factors and underlying causes of gentrification. Affordable housing and healthcare are first and foremost."

He advocates curbing gentrification by addressing the community's economic needs. "We need circular economies that create local jobs and allow for wealth creation at a local level," he said. "Let's implement locally based business incubators to grow local businesses and give them access to financial resources and coaching."

To prevent the El Paseo trail from bringing gentrification and pushing out longtime residents, Acevedo backs supporting local business in this corridor. "It is crucial that we freeze property taxes for residents living along the trail who own homes," he said. Acevedo also proposed incorporating sustainable construction and the arts community into the project. "My commitment as alderman would be to have a holistic, community-driven approach to this project with regular hearings, comment periods, and input from residents," he said.

Regarding pollution from the ward's old coal plants, he said. "We need to demand reparations for the years of health and environmental degradation caused by polluting sites and push for green energy, green space, and revitalization of the industrial corridors of the 25th Ward.

Acevedo said he is against businesses such as a distribution center replacing the generating plant and bringing diesel trucks that create more pollution and pose a safety risk to children at nearby schools.

He also addressed gerrymandering in Little Italy, which is now divided among three aldermen. "The Little Italy community deserves to have one alderman and fair representation as a neighborhood," he said.

On police protection, Acevedo said, "We need to partner with communities and bring back the trust between police officers and neighbors. We need dedicated beat officers that develop relationships with residents and restore programs like the Officer Friendly program. I started the Pilsen Neighborhood Watch group and grew it from seven members to over 7,000. We have to encourage neighborhoods across to city to engage in partnerships and a smart allocation of CPD resources that will prioritize restoring community trust in the police."

To fix sidewalks and potholes,



Acevedo said he also must address the lagging follow-up on City service requests at the ward and City level. "I will lead a 21st century alderman's office that responds efficiently to service requests," he said. "I will also advocate for a community-led process that prioritizes green development. Not only is the green economy good for the environment, but it will continue to bring opportunities for organized labor with sustained job creation." He also wants more bike lanes and sidewalks to encourage pedestrian traffic that benefits families and small business growth. "I am fully committed in pushing for green development and will hold developers to high standards on energy efficiency and sustainability," he said.

Acevedo supports heavy accountability and transparency measures on tax increment financing (TIFs) as well as a study of the economic and social return on investment for TIFs across the city to assess their overall effectiveness in Chicago.

Regarding rent control, he said, "The people of Chicago recently spoke up in favor of rent control at the ballot box, but rent control is



Alex Acevedo

not a silver bullet. We need to explore multiple options for renters and homeowners that prioritize the possibility of enabling home ownership to keep communities together and create a circular economy. Increasing affordable housing and implementing options like first-time homebuyer loan and credit programs would go a long way."

For more information on the candidate, go to www.alexfor25.com.

Editor's note: After repeated attempts to interview Alex Acevedo for this 25th Ward candidate profile, Gazette Chicago never received a response from Acevedo or his Continued on page 14

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### Holy Family 2019



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

**April 14th – Palm Sunday** 9:45 a.m. Solemn Procession of Palms and Mass

5:00 p.m. Distribution of Palms and Mass

April 18th – Holy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Celebration of the Liturgy of Our Lord's Last Supper The Church will remain open until Midnight

April 19th – Good Friday 1-2:30 p.m. Confessions 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

April 20th – Holy Saturday 2:00 p.m. Blessing of Food Baskets 7:00 p.m. The Vigil of Our Lord's Resurrection

April 21st – Easter Sunday 9:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection



Holy Family Church 1080 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60608 312/492-8442 · holyfamilychicago.org

### Acevedo, Sigcho-Lopez square off for 25th Ward aldermanic seat

Continued from page 13 campaign. The preceding is based on an interview we did with him prior to the Feb. 26 election.

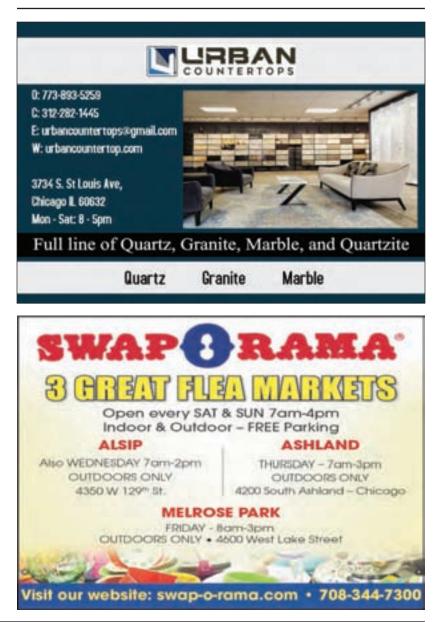
#### Byron Sigcho-Lopez

The longtime executive director of the Pilsen Alliance (he recently stepped down to concentrate on the aldermanic race), Byron Sigcho-Lopez said his commitment to the community and principles remain as they always have been. "We are excited that the results of the election show the strength of our message and its resonance with voters," he said. "I am very proud of our campaign for showing that our communities are aligned on the need to change the culture of politics throughout our ward and in City Hall.'

Concerning whether the Taylor Street community should remain split among three aldermen (those of the 11th, 25th, and 28th Wards) as it is now, his answer is no. "To consolidate their powers, previous members of City Council have carved up communities into smaller segments that are ultimately spread across multiple wards," said Sigcho-Lopez. "In 2020, we will have the opportunity to redistrict the City Council, and I am committed to working to ensure every community in the ward is represented adequately and are not subject to unfair gerrymandering practices."

Keeping the 25th Ward affordable is one of his legislative priorities. "More than 10,000 people have been displaced from the ward since 2000," he said, citing escalating housing costs. "Firstly, I will continue to be a strong advocate for lifting the statewide ban on rent control so that a much larger range of affordable housing initiatives are available to homeowners and renters alike. I will also fight for the full implementation of the Development for All ordinance, requiring 30% on-site affordable housing for all largescale residential housing developments, and I will advocate for property tax exemptions for longterm homeowners.

"As one of the co-founders of the Lift the Ban coalition, I have been a leader of city-wide efforts to lift the statewide ban on rent control," Sigcho-Lopez added. "To date, our coalition has worked with 13 wards across the city to pass referenda to lift the ban. At



stake here is opening up more avenues of intervention to stabilize rents and reduce housing costs for renters and homeowners alike."

He also supports a curb or ban on the TIF program as currently used. "I believe that the City should declare a TIF surplus and restore the program to fulfill its original purpose: spurring economic development in blighted communities," he said. "As such, I support the Back to Basics TIF ordinance as well as the Garza-Cardenas TIF surplus reform ordinance, which re-allocated surplus TIF funds to public schools and other public infrastructure projects."

Sigcho-Lopez has specific ideas to clean up pollution from the closed coal plants in the area. "While the closing of coal plans is a clear victory for our environment, I am committed to moving away from diesel-fueled operations and moving toward green energy and green jobs," he said. "I will seek to convert old industrial sites to parks and public green spaces where families can congregate. I also believe that some TIF money should be allocated towards fixing old lead service lines, as lead levels in our drinking water remains alarmingly high.'

Concerning crime, Sigcho-Lopez views it as a structural issue that can be addressed through a holistic approach aimed at creating healthier communities. "I would work toward providing vocational training, free college tuition for public universities and college, and personalized career counseling services," he said. The candidate also supports installing community-driven solutions, including the Civilian Police Accountability Council and restorative justice initiatives. "We can work toward reducing crime by reducing unemployment and increasing opportunity," he said.

One way Sigcho-Lopez plans to bring jobs to the ward is to ensure that developments such as the El Paseo path, developer Hilco's proposed warehouse where the Crawford Power Plant was, Project 78 in the South Loop, and Roosevelt Square have a written Community Benefits Agreement that mandates hiring local employees and contractors. He also will support small business development in business corridors in Pilsen, Little Village, Chinatown, and the West Loop and oppose taxes such as the Special Service Area tax, which he said places an unfairly and disproportionately large tax burden on small businesses.

Sigcho-Lopez has not sought nor received support from Alderman Danny Solis and did not indicate whom he supports in the mayoral election, stating, "I am squarely focused on the election in the 25th Ward, as we have much work to do before April 2. I look

### **WARD 25**

forward to working with whoever is elected our new mayor."

When asked what he would do to keep the City Council from being a rubber stamp for the mayor, or to keep the council from engaging in Council Wars as it did during the time of Mayor Harold Washington, Sigcho-Lopez said that is precisely the culture of politics in City Hall that his campaign wants to dismantle. "It is important to have a balanced council of independent voices, and the results of Feb. 26 are incredibly encouraging in this regard," he said. "If elected, my foremost consideration will always be the interests of the residents of the 25th Ward. Moreover, since the struggle for affordable housing, good public education, and public safety are concerns shared by residents of many different wards, I look forward to working with the respective aldermen to pass legislation that addresses the concerns of our constituents.'

Some opponents of Sigcho-Lopez have accused his campaign of buying votes. He responded by saying that "any suggestions that anyone who is part of the campaign did anything improper or encouraged anything improper on or before election day are categorically



Byron Sigcho-Lopez

false. We encourage a thorough investigation and only hope that its results are revealed as soon as possible so that these false rumors can finally be put to bed-as last week's allegations of 'vote buying' at Barbara Jean Wright Courts have already been. We further ask that the Election Commission and any other interested parties assign election monitors to ensure that the election is conducted fairly and in accordance with every law. While the timing of these accusations by our opponents provokes suspicions, our campaign has always been squarely focused on engaging voters and elevating the issues that matter most to the community." For more information, see www.sigchofor25.com.



### Rent control ban moving closer to elimination, coalition says

#### Continued from page 1

Among them are State Reps. Theresa Mah (2nd), Delia Ramirez (4th), Lamont Robinson Jr. (5th), and Sonya Marie Harper (6th).

Area State Senators include Mattie Hunter (3rd), who helped spearhead one of the bills, and Patricia Val Pelt (4th) who Malone said has been "leaning" toward supporting some form of rent control.

Hunter got involved earlier this year while on a statewide study of "affordable housing opportunities, rising rental prices, increasing health and human services and the criminal justice system," she said.

She then returned to Springfield to introduce a bill eliminating the rent control ban that had been on the books since 1997.

#### **Rent control boards**

Hunter's measure would create elected rent control boards in six regions across the State that would regulate rents for specific income levels and keep any annual rent increases in line with inflation rates.

Her bill also would spell out how much notice landlords must give before any rent increase and oversee creation of a reserve account for them to pay for repairs



Lif the Ban Coalition members march in favor of eliminating a State law that bans rent control in Chicago.

and capital improvements.

Hunter wants to "bring everyone to the table so we can come up with solutions to this crisis," she added.

According to the measure's supporters, including Rod Wilson of the Lugenia Burns Hope Center, a Bronzeville organizing group affiliated with Lift the Ban, the six rent control regions would provide oversight of local rent increases and be "self-funding" by charging landlords registration fees to cover the programs. South Side State Rep. Mary Flowers (31st) is sponsoring the other bill with support from Logan Square State Rep. Will Guzzardi (39th), who wants to "turn powers back to municipalities, allowing them to step in and do what they believe is right," he said.

Alderman Pat Dowell (3rd) said rent controls "could be helpful if used wisely," but conceded rent stabilization could have a downside. "For example, some landlords might be tempted not to invest too much in a building if there's not much of a return," she said.

Alderman Walter Burnett Jr. (27th) noted Chicago probably needs more education about rent control. He has talked to Black Chicago residents "who say they don't want low-income residents in their neighborhoods. They want market rate housing. There are fears and ignorance. But I know we can all live together."

Mayoral candidate Lori Lightfoot has not taken a position on rent control. She said that, for renters, Chicago "is not working. The City hasn't led" on building affordable housing. "But I don't think rent control is the issue we need to be focused on right now."

The other Mayoral candidate, Toni Preckwinkle, has endorsed the effort to overturn the State ban on rent control.

#### **Realtor opposition**

Rent control in any form would be unfortunate for everyone, warned Brian Bernardoni, senior director of governmental affairs of the Chicago Association of Realtors. Rent control may be very popular with voters, but it eventually leads to less affordable housing, Bernardoni said.

He added that, while everyone from developers to landlords to real estate professionals admits to



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an affordable housing crisis, they do not believe rent control is the way to solve the problem.

Instead, Bernardoni suggested Chicago change its building codes to make housing more affordable.

He noted the West and South Sides have thousands of empty lots and suggested using tax credits and building code revisions instead of rent controls.

Bernardoni noted Hunter's proposal to carve out rent control districts in six different regions across the State would "take away the choice municipalities should have" on whether to adopt rent control. The municipalities "won't get to decide" if they're answerable to a new regional authority, Bernardoni said.

According to figures from the Lift the Ban Coalition, an estimated one-fourth of Illinois tenants pay more than 50% of their household money on rent.

All legislators mentioned in this article are Democrats.

For the Chicago Association of Realtors, log on to https://chicagorealtor.com. State Senator Mattie Hunter's website is www.senatorhunter.com. For the Lift the Ban coalition, go to ltbcoalition.org.

### New restaurant Tria, opens in Bridgeport

*Continued from page 6* banana.

My sisters and I are really looking forward to bringing a great regional Italian dining experience to our Chicago neighbors—one that celebrates family and the next generation's appreciation for the traditional dishes of our past, while also looking toward the future through new creative menu specials," said Brittany Bertucci. "We're especially excited to offer the area a new Italian-inspired weekend brunch option."

Tria's 48-seat venue is open Monday through Friday for dinner at 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 9 a.m., as the restaurant serves weekday dinner as well as weekend brunch.

"We want Tria to be a place where everyone can find something delicious to eat and feel comfortable—whether you're enjoying a group dinner with friends, family brunch with the kids, or a girls' night out," she added. "We're here to accommodate all of your needs by providing handcrafted specials, authentic Italian dishes, and classic and specialty cocktails."

For more information or to schedule a reservation, visit www. triachicago.com or call (312) 344-1876.



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2019 Lenten Schedule Daily Mass/Liturgy of the Word located in Chapel 1335 W. Harrison Street Monday through Friday: 6:30 a.m.

Weekend Mass Schedule Saturday: 5 p.m. Sunday: 8:30 and 10 a.m. in English, Noon in Spanish

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Sacrament of Reconciliation The Sacrament of Penance/Confession will be offered after every weekend mass in the designated confession area at the front of the church. Please use this opportunity to receive the Sacrament during the Lenten season.

#### Service and Justice

Notre Dame de Chicago Parish invites you to join in our Lenten Social Justice Mission. Here is how you can make a difference:

UIC Pop-Up Pantry: Offers assistance to UIC students struggling with food deficiencies. Donate non-perishable food items and oral health and hygiene

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products. Donations can be dropped off in the back of church during Lent. Check the Sunday bulletin for donation guidelines.

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl is a Lenten program to raise funds to help children throughout the world in need of basic food. The Rice Bowls are available in the back of church. Please return your donation at the end of the Lenten season.

Outreach to the Homeless in the East Garfield Park neighborhood. Support the Notre Dame Meal Program at Franciscan House. Donation envelopes are available in the Church and proceeds will be used to purchase food for the meals. Notre Dame feeds 200 homeless neighbors several times per month. If you would like to assist in meal preparation, contact Dan Kopanke at dkopanke@hotmail.com.

# Byrne Interchange construction to last until 2022; graffiti cleanup to come

#### By Nawal Dairi

The rebuilding of the Jane Byrne (formerly Circle) Interchange that features I-90/94 (the Kennedy Expressway and the Dan Ryan Expressway) and I-290 (the Eisenhower Expressway), begun in 2013 and originally projected to be completed this year, now may last until 2022, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

This is the first major infrastructural improvement in the interchange since its construction in the 1950s. The cost of the project will be \$713 million, \$600 million of which is directly for construction.

Before the project, according to the American Transportation Research Institute and the Federal Highway Administration, the interchange was the slowest and most congested highway freight bottleneck in the nation with more than 300,000 vehicles traveling through the Interchange on a daily basis, and more than 1,100 crashes reported on average per year.

"The life cycle of an asset is 50 to 60 years, especially when you look into how much preventative maintenance has been done on the infrastructure," P.S. Sriraj, director of the Metropolitan Transportation Support Initiative and lecturer at the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), said. "The interchange, from a life span perspective, may have been structurally sound, but the traffic trying to navigate it has increased over the years." The construction project was necessary to "accommodate the current demand or future predicted demand," he added.

The ultimate goal of the construction is to reduce overall delays, improve safety, aesthetic adjustments, and community benefits. IDOT estimated that after



Auto commuters have gotten used to seeing construction equipment at various sites in the Jane Byrne Interchange.

the construction is completed that commuters will experience a 50% reduction in delays by the year 2040, a decrease of more than five million hours of annual congestion, and more than 1.6 million gallons of annual gas savings.

The project features three stages subcategorized into 35 contracts. IDOT's intention behind breaking the project into a number of contracts was to allow more flexibility in scheduling construction. Due to various events and festivals, construction has sometimes had to have been suspended to accommodate the needs of the surrounding areas.

#### No closings so far

IDOT spokesman Guy Tridgell said, "A big challenge of the project is that IDOT made a decision to keep as much open as possible during the project. This means no long-term closures of key ramps and no significant lane reductions. By and large, we have been able to do that. This extends the life of the project a bit and makes construction more of a challenge."

IDOT has noted that the project is taking longer than anticipated.



Holy Thursday, April 18 Bilingual Liturgy at 7 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight

Join us for the Paschal Trichum

Please join us in prayerful reflection

Good Friday, April 19 Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m. Bilingual Liturgy at 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 20 Blessing of Food Baskets at 11 a.m. Bilingual Easter Vigil Liturgy at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 21 English Masses at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Spanish Mass at Noon

Notre Dame is Handicap Accessible. You can access the church's worship space from the elevator off the parking lot, located at 1334 W. Flournoy Street.



Tridgell said it could have been shorter if expressways would have been closed, but that IDOT wanted to keep the impact to travelers and lane, ramp, and bridge closures to a minimum. Unexpected repairs needed for the Stevenson Expressway/I-55 and Lake Shore Drive also took time away from the Byrne Interchange project, he noted.

The first stage of reconstructing cross bridges at Morgan Street, Peoria Street, Halsted Street, Taylor Street, and Harrison Street and the new north-to-west flyover ramp near Greektown concluded in 2016.

Tridgell noted the success of the flyover ramp from the in-bound Dan Ryan to the outbound Eisenhower expressway. "Previously that ramp was one that went underneath the interchange with very curvy movements and lacked shoulders," he explained. "With the new flyover ramp, it essentially 'flies over' traffic connecting the Ryan to the Eisenhower expressway. It is much smoother movement. This is probably the biggest improvement we have seen at this stage."

With 17 contracts completed, IDOT is currently in stage two of construction on the Eisenhower/I-290 westbound and eastbound and on Ida B. Wells Drive (formerly Congress Parkway), with eight projects set for completion in 2019. Both the Van Buren Street bridge and Monroe Street bridge will be refurbished along with a north-to-east ramp. Additional projects include a relocation and improvement of water mains as well as a retaining wall alongside UIC's east campus recreational facility. IDOT also plans to eliminate the graffiti on the expressway this spring.

Tridgell said of the graffiti, "You are probably seeing more right now because we are coming out of winter. The techniques we use to eliminate graffiti do not work as well in the colder temperatures. In the next few weeks, we will have a concerted effort to eliminate those areas where there is graffiti. I will say that you are probably seeing graffiti that is not just on IDOT's system but on private buildings or in other spots. It is more of a widespread issue. It would certainly help when acts of vandalism are happening that people do report them. Somebody is seeing them when they happen. We are not out there 24/7 monitoring for graffiti. But clearly people are seeing this happen and if they report to authorities that would help greatly."

"I work at UIC and there are a few closed ramps which provide access to the campus," Sriraj said. "This is a temporary discomfort, which is the nature of these largescale constructions. Once the construction is over, it will be a much better experience, which is the focus for IDOT. That is what we have to look forward to."



Redirected traf c patterns have been a major part of the Illinois Department of Transportation's Jane Byrne Interchange reconstruction project.

The final stage will focuses on I-90 and I-94 construction (southbound and northbound), the bridges on Adams Street and Jackson Boulevard, lighting, green space, landscaping, and bridge painting.

#### In sync with surroundings

"The department is required in all of its projects to use a context sensitivity solutions approach," Tridgell said. "We are required to build our projects so they are in sync with the surrounding areas. In many cases, this involves green space or some other modes of transportation—bicycle, pedestrian accommodations and public transit. This is something the department has embraced more and more in the last decade, I expect that we will continue to do so."

In 2020, the ramp from the eastbound Eisenhower to the northbound Kennedy will be closed for three months.

Surrounding the Jane Byrne Interchange is a diverse community of four areas: Greektown and West Loop (northwest), UIC and the Illinois Medical District (southwest), industrial environments, and residential regions.

Frank Caputo of Greektown's Special Service Area #16 said, "As always, construction can cause concerns to any business. In Greektown specifically, there was some loss of business during the construction, due to Monroe and Van Buren Streets being closed at the same time. Luckily, we don't believe we will experience this level of construction again."

Entering the project, IDOT decided that no consecutive bridges should be constructed simultaneously to maintain access to neighborhoods and the downtown area. IDOT expects to remain on its current timetable for concluding construction in 2022.

IDOT's website on the project is at www.circleinterchange.org.

William S. Bike also contributed to this article.



### **Around the Neighborhood**

#### By William S. Bike

#### **SUICIDE PREVENTION**

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention will host a talk by Stephen S. O'Connor, University of Louisville, who will discuss intervention strategies for medically admitted suicide attempt survivors Tuesday, April 9, 11 a.m. at the Hilton Chicago, 720 N. Michigan Ave. Lunch will be provided. Log on to

https://afsp.org/chapter/ afsp-illinois/.

#### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Armour Square Park**, 3309 S. Shields Ave. will host an Easter Egg Hunt with activities for youngsters up to age 13 on Saturday, April 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.

#### **ART SHOW**

Chinese artist Chen Yingjie, also known as "Hua Tunan," translates traditional Chinese art together with Western graffiti/street techniques to capture the essence and chi (energy) of nature-animals and people. His show, Lion Dance - Cultural Symbol, will open with a reception at the ART Gallery -Asian Contemporary Art in Chinatown on Friday, April 12, from 5 to 9 p.m. The artist will be present at the reception. The show runs through Sunday, May 13. The ART Gallery is located at 211 W. 23rd St. Call (312) 600-8818.

#### I AM FEST

Black Lives, Black Words and Goodman Theatre will collaborate on the I Am Fest, a celebration of Black female artists, activists, and leaders, Saturday through Monday, April 27 through 29. The fest will include plays, leadership development workshops, panel discussions, and a playwrights'



Works by artist Chen Yingjie will be on display at the ART Gallery-Asian Contemporary Art in Chinatown through May 13.

competition for high school students. For information, email artistic@blacklivesblackwords.org or log on to www.blacklivesblackwords.org/events.

#### **PASSPORT TO TASTE**

**Career Transitions Center of Chicago** will hold its Passport to Taste fundraiser Thursday, May 9, 6 to 9 p.m. at 625 W. Adams St. Enjoy wine, craft beer, food, a silent auction, and awards honoring volunteers Jim Boysen and Blanche Roberts and USG Corp. Tickets are \$100 each. Email ajenke@ctcchicago.org.

#### **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 1945 S. Halsted St. For more information, call (312) 738-8000.

STUDENT NETWORKING BMO Harris Bank and the Chicago **Bulls** partnered with community organization **Youth Guidance** to celebrate International Women's Day with a speed networking event and tickets to the Bulls game. The students are part of Youth Guidance's Working on Womanhood (WOW) therapeutic program, which mentors female students from Chicago's under-resourced communities. For more information, call (312) 994-8144.

#### WOMEN'S PARK NEWS

Chicago Women's Park and Gardens hosts adult fitness, early childhood, and youth programs. Log on to http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/Chicago-Womens-Park-and-Gardens. More than 50 programs will run through early June.

Fit4Mom Stroller Strides offer 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.

Youngsters can play in the indoor playground at the Chicago Women's Park and Gardens, which features a climbing wall, playhouse, spinner, and Imagination Playground set. Park Advisory Council meetings will be held at 6:45 p.m. the Tuesdays of April 23, June 11, July 23, Aug. 20, Oct. 8, and Dec. 3.

The park is at 1801 S. Indiana Ave. Call (312) 742-PLAY.

#### WELCOME, MS. WELLS

The **City of Chicago** recently held a ceremony at Harold Washington Library Center unveiling new signs that renamed Congress Parkway in honor of Ida B. Wells, the late African-American journalist, civil rights crusader, and educator. Ida B. Wells Drive is and east-west thoroughfare located at 500 South.

#### **DE LA SALLE NEWS**

Enjoy blackjack and Texas Hold 'Em at the annual D-Final event on Saturday, April 6, in the **De La Salle Institute** Parmer Activity Center, with doors opening at 4 p.m. Watch the men's college basketball national semifinals and enjoy some food. Admission is \$50 at the door. Raffle tickets are available. Email willinghamc@dls. org or call (312) 842-7355, ext. 146.

The school will host its spring open house on Monday, April 15, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Interested families are invited to schedule a Meteor for a Day visit, in which a potential student comes for a day to explore classes and make new friends.

De La Salle will hold academic and athletic summer camps for grade schoolers in June and July.

The school is located at 3434 S. Michigan Ave. Call (312) 842-7355 or log on to www.dls.org.

#### **DOCENT TRAINING**

**Friends of Historic Second Church**, a Second Presbyterian Church group, holds a four-session docent training once a year. Among the topics are the Arts and Crafts movement as well as the church's stained glass windows,

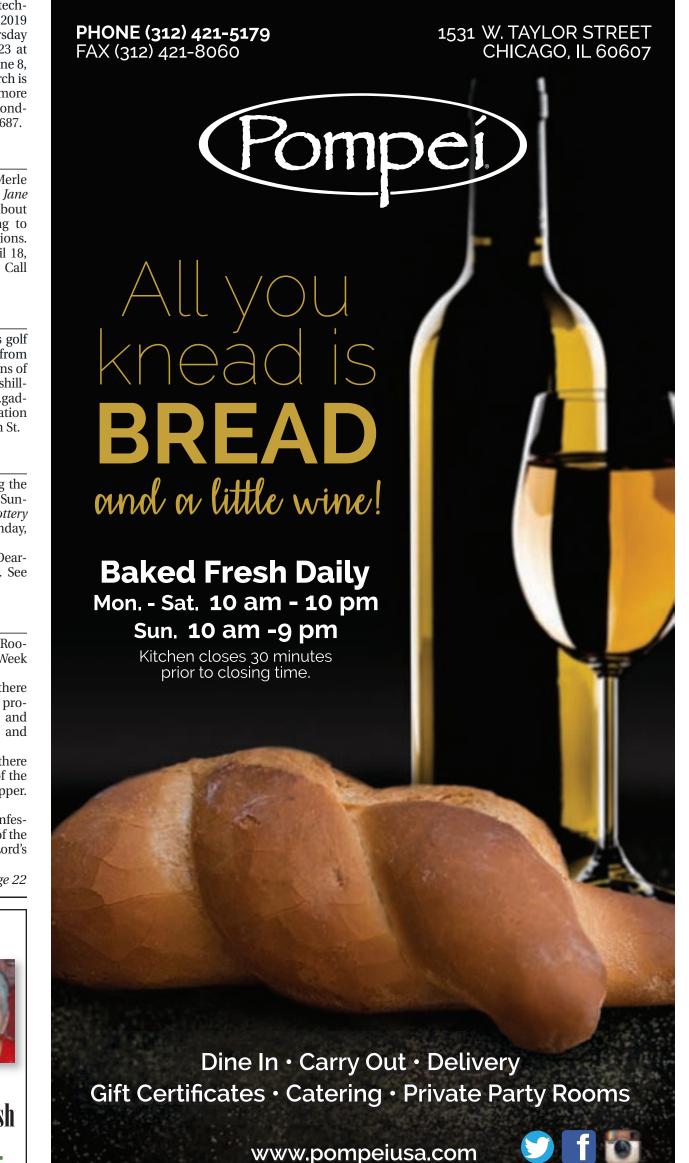


### Prayer To The Blessed Virgin



(Never known to fail.) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Cannel, 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 Eartht 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 Elernal 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.



murals, and philosophy and techniques of preservation. The 2019 training will occur the Thursday evenings of May 9, 16, and 23 at 6:30 p.m., and on Saturday, June 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. The church is at 1926 S. Michigan Ave. For more information go to historicsecondchurch.org or call (800) 657-0687.

#### JANE OF THE JUNGLE

The **DePaul University** Merle Reskin Theatre will present *Jane of the Jungle*, a musical play about a middle-school girl learning to navigate tricky social situations. The play runs Thursday, April 18, through Saturday, May 25. Call (312) 922-1999.

#### **GOLF OUTING**

**Gads Hill Center** will host its golf outing on Friday, July 26, from noon to 5 p.m. at Village Greens of Woodridge. Email info@gadshillcenter.org or log on to www.gadshillcenter.org. The organization is located at 1919 W. Cullerton St.

#### **GOODMAN PLAYS**

**Goodman Theatre** is running the play *Sweat* from now through Sunday, April 14, and the play *Lottery Day* from now through Sunday, April 28.

The theatre is at 170 N. Dearborn St. Call (312) 443-3800. See www.goodmantheatre.org.

#### **HOLY FAMILY SERVICES**

Holy Family Church, 1080 W. Roosevelt Road, will have Holy Week services.

Palm Sunday, April 14, there will be a 9:45 a.m. solemn procession of palms and Mass, and 5 p.m. distribution of palms and Mass.

Holy Thursday, April 18, there will be a 7 p.m. celebration of the Liturgy of Our Lord's Last Supper. Church open until midnight.

Good Friday, April 19, confessions 1 to 2:30 p.m.; Stations of the Cross, 3 p.m.; Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 7 p.m.

Continued on page 22



### Around the Neighborhood

#### HOLY FAMILY SERVICES

*Continued from page 21* Holy Saturday, April 20, 2 p.m. blessing of food baskets, 7 p.m.

Vigil of Our Lord's Resurrection; Easter Sunday, April 21, 9:45 a.m. and 5 p.m. Celebration of Our

Lord's Resurrection. Call (312) 492-8442 or log on to holyfamilychicago.org.

#### **TOUR TIME**

Join the hour long **Instagreeter** free tours that highlight downtown, Millennium Park, and the Magnificent Mile, which are available year round, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sun., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. No registration required, and all tours depart on the half hour from the Chicago Cultural Center visitor center at 77 E. Randolph St. Call (312) 945-4231 or visit www.chicagogreeter.com.

#### **BODY + CAMERA**

Mana Contemporary Chicago will present Body + Camera 2019: The Un/Certain Body, taking place at the Chicago Cultural Center, Claudia Cassidy Theater, 78 E. Washington St., on Sunday, April 7. This film forum celebrates the intersection of the moving body with the moving image, focusing on independent artists with contemporary, experimental projects. The forum is presented in partnership

#### **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 May events should be sent to Gazette Chicago in April. The next deadline is April 17 for the May 3 issue.



Goodman Theatre is running the play Lottery Day from now through Sunday, April 28.

with Chicago Dancemakers Forum, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and Montom Arts. Log on to www.manacontemporarychicago.com.

#### **MENTORS SOUGHT**

**Mercy Home for Boys & Girls** is looking for volunteers for its Friends First program, which matches adult volunteer mentors with underserved young people ages nine to 17 who need positive role models. To learn more, log on to mercyhome.org/giving/volunteer/mentor-child. Mercy Home is located at 1140 W. Jackson Blvd. Call (312) 738-7560.

#### MUSIC@GRACE

**Music@Grace** will host a piano recital on Thursday, April 25, starting with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and the concert at 6 p.m., at Grace Place, 637 S. Dearborn St. Call (312) 341-2352.

#### LENT/EASTER AT NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame de Chicago Church will host Lenten events including daily Mass/Liturgy of the Word in the chapel Monday through Friday at 6:30 a.m. Weekend Masses will be held Saturdays at 5 p.m., Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. in English, and noon in Spanish.

The church will offer the



Sacrament of Penance/Confession after every weekend Mass in the designated confession area at the front of the church.

Stations of the Cross will be held the Fridays of April 5 and 12 at 7 p.m., and April 19 at 3 p.m.

Paschal Tridumm: Holy Thursday, April 18, will feature a bilingual liturgy at 7 p.m. and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight. Good Friday, April 19, will feature Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m. and a bilingual liturgy at 7 p.m. Easter Vigil is Saturday, April 20, 11 a.m., with food basket blessing and 7 p.m. bilingual liturgy. Easter Sunday, April 21, Masses are at 8:30 and 10 a.m. in English and noon in Spanish.

Notre Dame invites all to join in the Lenten Social Justice Mission by contributing to the University of Illinois at Chicago Pop-Up Pantry Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl, and Outreach to the Homeless in East Garfield Park.

The church is at 1334 W. Flournoy St. There are a handicapped accessible elevator and restrooms and parking. Call (312) 243-7400.

#### **KEEP YOUR HOME**

Cook County will auction off delinquent county property taxes totaling \$189.6 million on 56,976 properties at the annual tax sale that begins Friday, May 3, Cook County Treasurer **Maria Pappas** said. Lists of all the properties, by municipality and Chicago ward, are published on cookcountytreasurer.com. Call (312) 603-6262 for more information.

#### EASTER EGG HUNT

The **Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance** will host the South Loop Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20, from noon to 2 p.m. in Chicago Women's Park and Gardens, 1801 S. Indiana Ave. Have fun at a petting zoo and enjoy games, prizes, treats, and a visit with the Easter Bunny. Log on to http://www.pdnachicago.com/.

#### **RUSH GENERATIONS**

Rush Generations, a health and aging program, offers classes, screenings, and programs for older adults and caregivers. Join Rush Generations for A Matter of Balance, a free eight-session workshop designed to reduce your risk for falls and improve balance, strength and flexibility; it will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 4 through 30. On Fridays, from 1 to 3:30 p.m., April 19 through May 24, Rush Generations will offer Take Charge of Your Health, another free workshop. The audiology team at Rush will perform free, 15-minute hearing screenings on Tuesday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to noon. Programs will be held on the Rush University Medical Center campus. To reserve your spots or for more information, call (888) 352-RUSH (7874).

#### **VENETIAN TWINS**

The O'Malley Theatre will present the slapstick comedic *The Venetian Twins* at **Roosevelt University**, 430 S. Michigan Ave., 7th Floor, on Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 7, at 2 p.m. Call (312) 341-3831.

#### **SLN NEWS**

The **South Loop Neighbors** will host a members dinner on Sunday, April 7. For more information, log on to www.southloopneighbors.org.





Rev. Connor Danstrom (lef ) of the St. John Paul II Newman Center at UIC and others were "pied" at a Pie A Priest Day fundraiser.

#### **RIBBON CUTTING**

**South Loop School** held a ribbon cutting for its new building recently, led by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Alderman Pat Dowell of the 3rd Ward. The new building is at 1601 S. Dearborn St. The school will accommodate approximately 1,200 students. Log on to https://southloopschool.org or call (773) 534-8690.

#### **JAZZIN' TO FEED**

**St. James Catholic Church** and **DL Comprehensive Healthcare** will present Jazzin' to Feed Africa, a fundraiser to help feed the hungry, Saturday, May 4, VIP reception 5 p.m. at VanderCook College of Music, jazz concert featuring Gros Ngolle Pokossi at 7 p.m. at De La Salle Institute, 3434 S. Michigan Ave. There will be a silent auction, buffet, beer, wine, and soda. Admission is \$40. VIP admission is \$90. Call (312) 842-1919 x 213 or log on to www.stjameswabash.org. The church is at 2942 S. Wabash Ave.

#### **ST. MATTHEW NEWS**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church** offers food for the needy at its Comedor San Mateo Soup Kitchen. The church campus is at 2108 W. 21st St. Call (773) 847-6458.

#### **SHRINE NEWS**

The **Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii** will host a Lenten Day of Reflection and Reconciliation: Communion in the Paschal Mystery, Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Presenters will be the Rev. Richard N. Fragomeni, rector of the shrine, and the Rev. Conner Danstrom from the St. John Paul II Newman Center at UIC.

Holy Week events include Palm Sunday, April 14, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Eucharistic Liturgies; Holy Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m. Eucharistic Liturgy; Good Friday, April 19, noon stations of the cross, 7 p.m. Eucharistic Liturgy; Holy Saturday, April 20, 9 p.m. Easter Vigil and Rector's Reception; and Easter Sunday, April 21, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Eucharistic Liturgies.

The shrine is at 1224 W. Lexington St., Chicago, IL 60607.

Log on to ourladyofpompeii. org or call (312) 421-3757.

#### **OPIOID GRANT**

**Sinai Health System** will receive \$2 million from the State of Illinois Department of Human Services to improve services for persons with Opioid Use Disorder. The hospital is located at 1500 S. Fairfield Ave. Call (773) 542-2000.

#### SIXTH GRACE NEWS

**Sixth Grace Presbyterian Church**, 600 E. 35th St., will observe Palm Sunday on April 14 at 11 a.m., and Tenebrae on Thursday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. It will hold its worship service at 11 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 21. Call (312) 225-5300.

#### **NEWMAN NEWS**

The **St. John Paul II Newman Cen**ter and the Newman Catholic Student Organization at the University of Illinois at Chicago held *Continued on page 31* 





The Gazette encourages you to participate in your local C.A.P.S. Program in 2019.

> 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: Beet 114, Thurs., Apr. 11, 130 N. Gartent Court, condo building, 6:30 p.m.; 10th Sector business meeting, Thurs., Apr. 25, 175 N. State St., Chicago Theater, 2 p.m.; 20th Sector residential meeting, Wed., Apr. 10, 525 S. State St., University Center, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 131/132, Taen., Apr. 16, 1718 S. State St., 1st District Station, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 133, Wed., Apr. 17, 2901 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Prairie Shores, 6:30 p.m., 20th Sector business meeting, Thurs., May 2, 50 S. LuSalle St., Northern Trust Bank, 2 p.m. Call (312) 745-4381.



2nd District: Beat 211, Mon., Apr. 8, 3240 S. Indiana Ave., Illinois College of Optimetry, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 213/215/224, Tues., Apr. 23, 4058 S. Michigan Ave., St. Elizabeth Church, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 221/223, Tues., Apr. 16, 4314 S. Cottage Grove Ave., King Center, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 222, Tues., Apr. 9, 4434 S. Lake Park Ave., Kennicott Park, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 225/232, Thurs., Apr. 11, 5627 S. Michigan Ave., Coppin A.M.E. Church, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 231/233/234/235, Thurs., May 2, 5531 S. King Dr., Washington Park, 6:30 p.m. Call (312) 747-8366.



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9th District: Best 912, Wed, Apr. 10, 3825 S. Hoyne Ave., St. Maurice Church Hall, 7 p.m.; Beats 913/915, Tuest, Apr. 9, 2859 S. Throop St., St. Barbara Church, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 914, Wed, Apr. 24, 2100 S. Wentworth Ave., Chinotown Library, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 922, Tues., Apr. 23, 2611 W. 48th St., Shields Middle School, 6 p.m.; Beat 923, Tues., Apr. 23, 5157 S. California Ave., St. Simon Church Hall, 7 p.m.; Beat 925, Wed., Apr. 17, 4500 S. Wallace St., St. Gabriel Church, 6 p.m.; Beats 933/934/935, Tues., Apr. 16, 1301 W. 52hd St., Sherman Park, 6 p.m.; Beats 933/934/935, Tues., Apr. 16, 1301 W. 52hd St., Davis School Annex, 7 p.m. Call (312) 747-3501.

10th District: 20th Sector beat meetings, Thurs., Apr. 11, 3315 W. Ogden Ave., 10th District community room, 6 p.m.; 30th Sector beat meetings, Wed., Apr. 17, 3315 W. Ogden Ave., 10th District community room, 6 p.m.; Beat 1011, Thurs., May 2, 1350 S. Harding Ave., Clair House, 6 p.m. Call (312) 747-7190.

12th District: Beats 1224/1231, Wed., Apr. 10, 1300 W. Jackson Bivd., Chicago Police Academy, 7 p.m.; Beats 1232/1233, Wed., Apr. 24, 1412 S. Bue Island Ave., 12th District Station, 7 p.m.; Beats 1234/1235, Wed., Apr. 17, 1919 S. Ashland Ave., St. Plus V. Church basement, 7 p.m.; Beat 1225, Wed., May 1, 2108 W. Ogden Ave., Ohicago Hupe Academy, 7 p.m.; Call (312) 746-8306.

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### Our choice for New Mayor of Chicago: Lori Lightfoot, a reform candidate who will lead and reform this City

Then there were two. From a field of 14 mayoral candidates aspiring to take on the myriad challenges facing the City of Chicago after eight roller coaster years of the Rahm Emanuel administration, only two remain: Lori Lightfoot and Toni Preckwinkle.

This intriguing run-off is the story of the political upstart and former Federal prosecutor, standing tall on a reform platform that has resonated with Chicagoans who are sick and tired of the way things have been for decades and the stench of corruption that permeates our city. On the flip side is the savvy, and in all fairness, oftentimes effective politician, who has struggled in this campaign to keep a step ahead of her dance partner—the Chicago Democratic Political Machine. It's tough to do the tango with a partner that you know may drag you down—but the one you brought to the dance and whom you embraced as you rose up the ranks in Chicago politics, first in the City Council and then as President of the Cook County Board.

Leading up to the Feb. 26 election, *Gazette Chicago* was out in front of the other Chicago media in making a strong endorsement for Lori Lightfoot in its Feb. 1 issue (go to www.gazettechicago.com, click on the E-Edition tab, then search our archives for the February 1, 2019 issue, to read our initial mayoral endorsement).

Yep, an entire week before the *Chicago Sun-Times* stepped up for Lightfoot and before many other media outlets "saw the light" in making the same case. The *Chicago Tribune* and *Crain's Chicago Business*? They went for Bill Daley, who came in third and didn't make the run-off, despite having the largest war chest among the 14 aspirants. Daley's donations came primarily from corporations and the wealthiest Chicago ans, including a cool \$2 million from Ken Griffin, who gave an unheard of \$34 million to Republican Bruce Rauner during his two campaigns for Governor.

We received many positive comments as a result of our Feb. 1 endorsement for Lightfoot. Readers appreciated the time we put into reviewing the unusually large field of candidates and offering some clarity to the race. Are we bragging? Just a little. But much more importantly, we were uplifted to see that so many of our neighbors also want to see change progressive change. The kind of change, promise, and passion for fairness for *all* Chicagoans that Lori Lightfoot brings to the table.

Some local political pundits said it was easy for Lightfoot to sneak into the top spot on Feb. 26 because she was a relative unknown. "Wait until the hot glare of the spotlight bears down on her in the run-off with Preckwinkle," they surmised. Well, we're still waiting. There hasn't been a Lightfoot meltdown, no matter what the Preckwinkle campaign has thrown at her. In fact, Lightfoot has impressed us even further as she has remained cool and confident and able to articulate her views and positions in the debates, forums, and media interviews leading up to the April 2 election.

We are confident that Lightfoot has the skillset and vision to lead Chicago down a path that will result in the reform of our politics. It was telling in a recent meeting with the *Chicago Tribune* editorial board where these candidates stood on the critical issue of aldermanic privilege. Aldermanic privilege has basically given each of our 50 aldermen the final say in what developments will be built in their wards and decision-making on other critical matters that affect the masses.

Lightfoot saw this decades-long assumption of and, sadly in many cases, abuse of power, as the root of political corruption in the City Council and a means for undue influence by eager developers and others. Preckwinkle defended aldermanic privilege, arguing instead that not allowing City Council members to hold outside jobs was the best defense against future corruption. On the one hand, we had the response of a former prosecutor and someone who sees the need to reform our politics. On the other, we had a former colleague of the City's aldermen who, in our eyes, wants to go soft on the City Council. We opt for the candidate who will look at reform with a critical eye—we stand with Lightfoot on this important issue. Thirty aldermen have been sent to jail on corruption charges since 1972, and now we have 25th Ward Alderman Daniel Solis wearing a wire for two years. This has got to stop. Now.

Lightfoot would set mayoral term limits as part of her plan to clean up City government. She plans to hold town hall meetings on the City budget and will stop elected officials from profiting from their government positions.

Chicago is at a crossroads. Do we want to become a city in which only

the rich and powerful can live and thrive, or do we want to create opportunity for people from all corners of the city to have a chance to better themselves and their families? If you want the latter, then vote for Lightfoot.

She didn't grow up with a silver spoon in her mouth—Lightfoot knows what it means for a family to struggle to work their way up to, and maintain middle class status. So many of our Chicago families are suffering to reach this level. Lightfoot will have compassion for her fellow citizens and create more opportunities for advancement.

We believe that Lightfoot will effectively address the problems in



Lori Lightfoot.

our public schools—which are not the fault of our teachers and principals, but stem from the way the current Mayor and his appointed school board have distributed resources and treated Chicago Public Schools staff with disdain. Lightfoot is in favor of an elected school board; expanding high school apprenticeship programs; and having a Level 1 elementary and high school in *every* neighborhood. It has been disappointing to see the Chicago Teachers Union throw their support to Preckwinkle, but they have the right to do so.

Do we want to offer alternative pathways to our youth that include education, job training, a true sense of self-worth, and a trust in government, and turn them away from gangs and street violence? If so, then vote for Lightfoot.

She is an accomplished attorney who most recently served as a senior partner in the Litigation and Conflict Resolutions Group at the firm of Mayer Brown LLP. Wouldn't that skillset come in handy when dealing with the City Council, the Chicago Teachers Union, and other City agencies, as well as in communicating with all Chicagoans? Imagine a Mayor who didn't talk down to you. That would be a breath of fresh air after eight years of Emanuel's reign.

As chair of the Police Accountability Task Force, Lightfoot issued a detailed report of the practices of the Chicago Police Department. Many of the PATF's findings and recommendations were similarly reported in the Department of Justice report in January 2017—under the watch of former Attorney General Loretta Lynch. This report and consent decree gives us our best chance for reform and accountability within the CPD. If you want to see true and fair reform within the Chicago Police Department and honest discussions on race relations, how to create partnerships between police and community, and a rebuilding of trust between everyday citizens and the CPD, then vote for Lightfoot. She will also work to improve police training and reduce a homicide clearance rate that stands at an abysmal 15.4%.

She plans to address gun violence as the public health crisis that it is, create violence-prevention programs, open community-based mental health centers, and work to legislatively get illegal guns off our streets. She has a plan to expand affordable housing options and reduce the red tape that keeps many from having a roof over their heads.

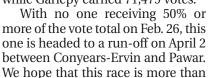
Lightfoot supports the LGBTQ+ community and will appoint mayoral liaisons to work with Chicagoans who, like her, are a part of this community. We appreciate her desire for inclusivity and the importance of safeguarding the civil rights of LGBTQ+ people everywhere, and the fact she has been open about her status. Lightfoot handled refuting a recently circulated hate flyer that said that LGBTQ+ people were "taking over the city" with great dignity. There is no place for such hatred in Chicago, and Lightfoot will be a strong opponent of hate speech.

She is a proud mother and wants the best for all of our children and grandchildren. Lightfoot will stand to protect those with immigrant status in our city. She will reinstate the Department of the Environment to address climate change and embrace green technology.

*Gazette Chicago* once again strongly endorses **Lori Lightfoot** as the next Mayor of Chicago.

### **Conyears-Ervin for City Treasurer**

Leading up to the Feb. 26 election, *Gazette Chicago* endorsed Melissa Conyears-Ervin for City Treasurer. That race included 47th Ward Alderman Ameya Pawar and Peter Gariepy, a Certified Public Accountant servicing the West Town and East Village communities. Conyears-Ervin garnered 44.3% of the vote, with Pawar coming in second with 41.6% and Gariepy receiving 14.1%. Conyears-Ervin outpaced Pawar by 13,827 vote, 224,183 to 210,356, while Gariepy earned 71,479 votes.



Melissa Conyears-Ervin.

about the 71,000-plus votes that went to Gariepy, as we hope the voter turnout will be larger in the runoff.

The truth of the matter is we have two very good candidates to choose from in Conyears-Ervin and Pawar. Both have served their constituents well since holding public office.

Pawar has generally voted with the progressives in City Council and in 2017 ran an unsuccessful bid for the 2018 Democratic nomination for Governor. He was the first Indian-American and Asian-American elected to the Council in 2011.

Pawar would diversify the City's investment portfolio and make sure investments are environmentally sound. Pawar said he wants to run the office under a "bold, progressive agenda" and invest in neighborhoods. He promises to be a "fiscal watchdog" and end City deals based on clout. He would keep the office independent from the Mayor and City Council through establishing an Office of Economic Empowerment to help people with housing, debt, and education in an effort to solve economic inequality. He strongly supports a municipal-owned bank that would not have predatory service fees and changes in interest rates that harm consumers. He would divest the City from fossil fuels and embrace a green agenda. Pawar has a unique plan to "publicize" the City's water system by selling shares in it. We are concerned about any plan that takes a City asset such as water away from the City, as Pawar's would as it poses too many risks.

Conyears-Ervin has been a State Representative in this community's 10th District since 2016. She sponsored and had passed the improved Illinois education formula bill, bringing an additional \$221 million in funding to the Chicago Public Schools. This was no small feat considering she was dealing with the obstruction of former Governor Bruce Rauner and a slate of Republican legislators who didn't want to see CPS receive a fairer share of State revenues.

Conyears-Ervin also was the chief sponsor of a bipartisan bill that protected funding for child care assistance to help working parents. We are impressed with how Conyears-Ervin hit the ground running in Springfield, made a significant impact during her first term, and did so working both sides of the aisle in an environment that didn't encourage much of this type of effective legislative leadership. We believe these strengths would enhance the Office of the City Treasurer.

Continued on page 26



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### **Conyears-Ervin for City Treasurer**

#### Continued from page 25

Conyears-Ervin noted that her experience in the legislature has taught her the unfairness of expecting people to wait for money owed them, so she promises to pay bills promptly. She would place the City's money in banks that invest in communities of need. She would work to increase investment revenues to help pay for City pensions.

As Treasurer, Conyears-Ervin would enact policies that would benefit all residents of Chicago. Her platform offers an opportunity to increase transparency and even the playing field in bringing critically needed economic development to all corners of the City. So much of the discourse, passion, and momentum this election season have been about fairness and taking a final whack at the remnants of Machine politics in Chicago.

We support Conyears-Ervin's plan to move the Council Office of Financial Analysis from the City Council to the Office of the Treasurer. This would give a more independent voice when analyzing bond issues, revenue projections, and budget impact statements. All are sorely needed in what has been a rubber-stamped City Council for the Mayor for far too many years. This takes some moxie on Conyears-Ervin's part, too, as her husband Jason Ervin (28th Ward) is a member of the City Council. We also applaud Conyears-Ervin's plan to conduct a financial analysis of CPS and its sister agencies as well as that of the City's pension funds. This pension analysis would help us get a better handle on how to address the \$1 billion deficit and a way to bring City pension plans to solvency. We also appreciate that Conyears-Ervin would work to make more Chicago families educated about the importance of sound financial decision making and access to local banks.

Conyears-Ervin has been a strong, local voice for the constituents within *Gazette Chicago's* coverage area. We believe she can make the transition well from State Representative to City Treasurer. She has a master's

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degree in business and finance and has shown the skill set needed for assessing critical financial matters for Chicago. **Melissa Conyears-Ervin** remains our solid choice for City Treasurer.

## Pilsen activist Byron Sigcho-Lopez for Alderman of the diverse 25th Ward

In the Feb. 26 election, there were five candidates vying for the seat abandoned by long-time Alderman Daniel Solis. Solis was found to be wearing a wire for two years, working with the Federal Government to record conversations with 14th Ward Alderman Ed Burke, long-time head of the City Council's powerful Finance Committee, and who knows how many other politicians, lobbyists, and business people trying to wheel and deal influence within the City Council, City Hall, and in Springfield.

They say all politics is local and this is certainly the case in the 25th Ward. With a public outcry seeking political reform throughout the City, and Solis in hiding since he was ex-



Byron Sigcho-Lopez.

posed for working with the Feds, this is a golden opportunity for the residents of the 25th Ward to elect a new representative to the City Council that will finally be looking out for *their* best interests. Solis spent too much time in recent years looking out for the needs of developers, and less so for his constituents. This certainly was a factor in helping to push 10,000 residents out of Pilsen since 2000.

This race comes down to two challengers in the run-off: Alex Acevedo and Byron Sigcho-Lopez. Acevedo is a registered nurse and son of former State Representative Edward Acevedo. Sigcho-Lopez was the longtime executive director of the Pilsen Alliance and has been a welcome thorn in the side of Solis in recent years, advocating for the needs and rights of 25th Ward residents too often left at the curb by an alderman who gained too much power and lost his way.

*Gazette Chicago* endorsed Sigcho-Lopez in the Feb. 26 election, and did its due diligence and interviewed all five candidates leading up to that decision. We shared with you the results of our interviews in our Feb. 1 issue so that you could be better prepared to make your decision at the voting booth. That should be the role of your community newspaper. So, imagine our dismay, when after repeated attempts to interview Acevedo for this issue, our calls went unreturned leading up to press time. This is disappointing—not only for us—but also for the residents of the 25th Ward, and for the lack of importance Acevedo finds in not speaking with the only English-speaking media outlet representing a large percentage of potential voters in the 25th Ward. No matter how busy he must be on the campaign trail, Acevedo should have found the time to speak to *Gazette Chicago*, a media outlet and paper of record in this community that serves as an important vehicle for him to get his message out to potential constituents. Sigcho-Lopez found the time.

Regardless of Acevedo's decision not to speak to us, *Gazette Chicago* sees no reason to change its mind in this run-off.

Sigcho-Lopez is on the right side of history, calling for a curb or ban on TIFs as they are being currently used; is for the lift of the ban on rent control and was a co-founder of the Lift the Ban coalition; has a green agenda for residents in the community who for too long paid the price of having to put up with area polluters; wants to immediately address lead in our public water drinking system; and wants to ensure that developments such as the El Paseo Path, the 78 in the South Loop, and Roosevelt Square along Taylor Street all have a Community Benefits Agreement related to hiring of local employees and contractors. We also like his stand on property tax exemptions for long-term resident.

Sigcho-Lopez also wants to see one alderman, not three, represent the Little Italy community. Well, all this is certainly a breath of fresh air.

Sigcho-Lopez has been a very effective community activist. He will provide hope for long-time residents trying to cling to their community and he will fit well with a change in leadership in City Hall under Lori Lightfoot as Mayor. *Gazette Chicago* strongly endorses **Byron Sigcho-Lopez** for Alderman of the 25th Ward.



### Summer camps keep youngsters active, engaged, and having fun

#### **By Dolly Duplantier**

Every summer, parents are challenged to find activities for youngsters and teens. A variety of organizations help them meet that challenge by providing both fun and educational activities. Supportive learning environments give moms and dads peace of mind, knowing that their children are active and engaged.

**De La Salle Institute Academic and Sports Camps**, 3434 S. Michigan Ave., (312) 842-7355, ext. 147, www.dls.org, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@DLSMeteors).

De La Salle Academic and Sports Camps are a great way for students to spend the summer. If you want to keep your grade school student busy this June and July, De La Salle Institute offers a wide variety of academic and sports camps to exercise the mind and body. Whether your child needs to improve his or her math skills or would like to learn something new, current De La Salle faculty and staff members lead a number of four-day academic sessions for boys and girls featuring Algebra Fundamentals, Band, Creative Art, Drama, Learning to Code, Mobile App Development, Mock Trial, and Culinary Arts. The Culinary Arts program features a different session topic each week, including Breakfasts, Breads, Entrees, and Desserts.

De La Salle Sports Camps offer a number of exciting options for children in second grade through eighth grade, depending on the sport. These include Football, Baseball, and Wrestling for boys; Softball, Cheer Camp, and Dance for girls; and co-ed camps for Basketball, Boxing, Golf, Soccer, Lacrosse, Track and Field Speed, Tennis, and Volleyball. The De La Salle varsity coaching staff runs the sports camps stressing fundamentals, as well as skills and techniques needed to succeed in all facets of the sport.

De La Salle Academic and Sports Camps also provide a



De La Salle Institute of ers a wide variety of sports and academic camps, including an opportunity for participants to learn the culinary arts.



At the Fortson Fine Arts Center, children will spend a fun-f lled week learning the basics of ukulele, guitar, percussion, singing, and music art.

great opportunity for your middle school student to learn more about the high school environment and what it takes to succeed. Camps begin the week of Monday, June 10, and run through Thursday, July 25.

For a complete list with age requirements, visit www.dls.org/ summercamps.jsp. You can register and make payment online at www.dls.org/summercamppayments.jsp.

Fortson Fine Arts Center Summer Camps, 1550 S. State St., (312) 469-0667. fortsonfinearts@gmail. com, www.fortsonfinearts.com, Facebook, Instagram.

Looking for a summer camp that will nurture your child's love of music and art? At the Fortson Fine Arts Center Summer Camp, children ages four through 12 will spend a fun-filled week learning the basics of ukulele, guitar, percussion, singing, and music art. Small groups based on age allow campers to create, explore, and let out their musician and artist. Camp is designed to be fun while inspiring students to create and enjoy their summer. No experience is needed.

Studio owner Sheila Fortson began the Fortson Fine Arts Studio as a way to broaden her passion to educate the young and young at heart. A member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), Fortson has a bachelor's degree in piano performance and a master's in interdisciplinary art. She has over 20 years of experience teaching, plus a 15-year background in choral conducting. In addition, all of the camp instructors are background-checked and professionally trained in their instrument of piano, voice, guitar, ukulele, drums, or art.

Campers with their own ukulele or guitar are asked to bring them to camp. Otherwise, instruments and art supplies will be provided. Parents are also asked to provide two snacks, lunch, a water bottle, and sunscreen. Fortson is *Continued on page 28* 



First week of camp starts July 15th. We offer private drums, piano, guitar, ukulele, vialin, vaice lessons, as well as group ukulele. Visit our website for summer camp info!





### Summer camps keep youngsters active, engaged, and having fun

#### Continued from page 27

a nut-free zone. The cost of camp is \$360 per week. Hours are Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Extended daycare is available from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for \$75 per week. Weekly sessions begin the Mondays of July 15, 22, 1nd 29. Register online at https://www.fortsonfinearts.com/book-online.

Hi-Five Sports Camp Chicago, 1430 W. Adams St., (312) 226-6555, gary@hifivesports.com, www.hifivesports.com, Facebook, Instagram.

Hi-Five Sports Camp Chicago is back again for another summer of keeping your child active, healthy, and happy. Hi-Five provides safe, cutting-edge, skill-developing programs in which no matter the child, the goal remains the same: have a great time and learn the value of teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Offering a full menu of team sports designed for boys and girls from pre-k to 8th grade, Hi-Five Sports Camp Chicago is about



The Hi-Five Sports Camp Chicago helps youngsters have a good time and learn teamwork and sportsmanship no matter what their skill level.

more than winning and losing – it is about teamwork, playing hard and playing fair, making new buddies, and enjoying the camaraderie. The camp is as encouraging as it is challenging, as safe as it is high-energy, and as instructional as it is fun. At Hi-Five Sports Camp Chicago, fun is the name of the game.

The camp offers experienced professional coaches who promote the fundamentals through personalized instruction and positive reinforcement. Their mission is to stress the importance of building self-esteem while always maintaining a sense of humor.

Hi-Five Sports Camp Chicago features a different sports theme every week such as NBA, NFL, MLB, NHL, Olympic, World Cup, and Collegiate Week. There is nonstop fun and no two days are alike. Campers experience exciting field trips to water parks and professional ballgames, an instructional swim program, and an all-youcan-eat hot lunch featuring Chicago's favorites such as Lou Malnati's Pizza, Fontano's Subs, and Hi-Five's famous Friday cookouts. Plus, door-to-door bus transportation is included while After Camp Care also is available.

Camp sessions begin Monday, June 17, on the 11-acre campus of Whitney Young Magnet High School on Adams Street in the West Loop. Hi-Five's new Field of Dreams will occupy the brand new Michelle Obama Sports Complex. Flexible two, four, six, or eight-week programs are offered with customized three, five, or





seven-week schedules to accommodate busy families. Register online or telephone (312) 226-6555.

JSP Jump Start Program, 2216 S. Wentworth Ave. or 2301 S. Wentworth Ave., (312) 328-1188 (Pui Tak Center) or (312) 842-8546 (Pui Tak Christian School), JSP@ puitak.org, www.puitak.org/jsp, Facebook (www.facebook.com/ puitakcenter).

The Pui Tak Center and Pui Tak Christian School have worked together for decades serving Chinatown and Chicagoland neighborhoods by offering community and academic programming to new immigrants, children, youth, and adults. This summer, they will once again offer the JSP Jump Start Program, a seven-week program for all students entering pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

Students will review and prepare for the next school year through an engaging, creative summer curriculum that includes academics, field trips, gym games, and inspiring Bible activities. Each day, students will be challenged in math, reading, writing, and phonics, as well as take part in arts and movement while learning the Bible and participating in physical education during gym games. Students will gain hands-on learning experiences during weekly field trips, engage in teamwork, and build relationships with peers through special events like mini



The Pui Tak Center and Pui Tak Christian School will of er the JSP Jump Start Program for students entering pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

Olympics and a summer carnival.

The JSP Jump Start Program will take place at the Pui Tak Center and Pui Tak Christian School, Monday, July 1, through Friday, Aug. 16. Students can register for the whole seven weeks for \$950, the first four weeks for \$600, or the last three weeks of the program for \$500. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Before school and after school care also is available at an additional cost. Child Care Assistance (CCAP) is accepted for those qualified. Parents may register at the Pui Tak Center or Pui Tak Christian School. For more information, contact Karen Lee at the Pui Tak Center, (312) 328-1188, or

Chen Zhuang at the Pui Tak Christian School (312) 842-8546.

**Soccer Association for Youth** (SAY) of Chicago, info@sayofchicago.com, www.sayofchicago. com, Twitter, Facebook.

Online enrollment now is open for Soccer Association for Youth of Chicago's popular summer soccer league. Established in 1999, SAY of Chicago is a volunteer run, not-for-profit, co-ed recreational youth soccer organization dedicated to "Kids Having Fun." It is part of a national organization dedicated to providing an affordable, safe, and enriching environment in which youngsters, ages four through 15, learn the basics of the game, as well as the merits of teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Celebrating its 20th year, SAY serves more than 650 children from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds throughout the Chicagoland area. The 2019 season runs from early June through mid-August.

The SAY league is non-competitive and is divided into five different co-ed age divisions. These include U5, U7, U9, U12 (Jr. Premiere), and U15 (Premiere). Each team will play two games per week on Tuesdays and Fridays at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) turfed fields located at 14th and Morgan Streets; these fields are considered some of the best in the city.

Early bird registration fee (through Monday, April 29) is \$110 or \$130, depending on the age bracket. Fees include a season of soccer (22 games, weather permitting), team uniform (jersey, shorts, and socks), player award, individual and team photos, and referees (for U9, U12, and U15 only). Divisions fill up quickly, so those interested are urged to sign up as soon as possible.

The SAY program is run and operated 100% by parent volunteers. The league is dependent on participation of all parents as well as the generous support of *Continued on page 30* 





### Summer camps keep youngsters active, engaged, and having fun

#### Continued from page 29

sponsors. Volunteer assistance helps provide a well-run program for all players at an affordable cost. Every parent is expected to help in some capacity. Volunteer opportunities include coach, assistant coach, team manager, picture day assistant, and others. Descriptions of each position can be found on the SAY Chicago website. Consider contributing some of your time to help the league accomplish its mission. All that is needed is the desire to help.

**Sean Phillips Soccer**, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, (312) 848-6160, info@seanphillipssocer.com, www.seanphillipssoccer.com, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram.

This summer, take your child's soccer skills to a whole new level, learning from championship winning soccer coaches and players. Held on the south campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Sean Phillips Soccer Day Camp is designed for boys and



SAY of Chicago is a co-ed recreational youth soccer organization dedicated to "Kids Having Fun."

girls ages four through 14. UIC Head Men's Soccer Coach Sean Phillips has 19 years of collegiate coaching experience at the Division 1 level and over 21 years of experience coaching and operating soccer camps for players of all ages and levels. The camp staff is composed of UIC coaches, current and former players from the UIC

men's and women's soccer programs, and other select Chicago area coaches.

Teaching is done through technical training with games-based activities such as soccer tennis, as well as small and larger sided games throughout the day with the mindset that the game belongs to the kids. The goal of each program is to specifically address the individual players so that they learn more about themselves and the game while growing their passion for soccer.

The camp also offers goalkeeper-specific training through a partnership with nationally known Camp Shutout. This program is designed for boys and girls ages ten through 18 who want to receive specialized goalkeeper training.

Five weekly sessions are offered beginning Monday, June 10. Full day sessions run 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; half-day options are 9 a.m. to noon. Early drop off and late pick up options are also available. Register online at https:// campscui.active.com/orgs/ SeanPhillipsSoccer.

To Place Your Gazette Chicago Ad Call us at (312) 243-4288 or www.gazettechicago.com



Activities start the week of April 1<sup>st</sup> for most programs.

#### Online registration begins: Monday, February 25 at 9AM for parks WEST of California Ave. (2800 W.)

**Tuesday, February 26 at 9AM** for parks **EAST** of California Ave. (2800 W.)

#### In-Person registration begins: Saturday, March 2 for most parks. Some parks begin Monday, March 4

Please note: registration dates vary for gymnastics centers as well as Morgan Park Sports Center & McFetridge Sports Center.



MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners Michael P. Kelly, General Superintendent & CEO

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

# Join us for a summer of **Soccer fun**

Online enrollment is now open for Soccer Association for Youth of Chicago's popular summer soccer league at the UIC fields

Affordable league: early bird registration fee is \$110 or \$130 depending on age bracket.
Non-competitive, coed teams for boys and girls ages 4 - 15 in 5 divisions. Two games per week at the newly turfed UIC fields on 14th and Morgan.
Program runs from mid-June through mid-August.

• Registration fee includes team uniform, referees (U9, U12 and U15), team photo, and trophy.

**Register today** www.sayofchicago.com



Established in 1999, SAY of Chicago is a not-for-profit, co-ed, recreational youth soccer organization dedicated to: "*kids having fun.*" We serve over 650 children and their families from throughout the Chicagoland area, from all ethnic and economic backgrounds. Our league is run and operated by parent volunteers. **Divisions fill up fast; join us today,** 

### Around the Neighborhood

#### **NEWMAN NEWS**

Continued from page 23

Pie A Priest Day on March 14 (Pi Day) to raise money for the NCSO.

There will be a Holy Happy Hour on Monday, May 20, at Lagunitas Brewing Co., 2607 W 17th St. The center is located at 700 S.

Morgan St. Call (312) 226-1880.

#### **BUILDER'S DAY**

**Taller de Jose** will host its tenth annual Builder's Day Celebration Sunday, April 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Lacuna Lofts, 2150 S. Canalport Ave. Enjoy beverages, food, live music, and a celebration honoring Sr. Kathy Brazda, Bishop Robert Casey, and Sr. Carol Crepeau. Tickets are \$100 each. Call (773) 523-8320 or log on to tallerdejose.org. The organization connects and accompanies people to service providers.

#### **STUDENT NETWORKING**

**BMO Harris Bank** and the **Chicago Bulls** partnered with community organization **Youth Guidance** to celebrate International Women's Day with a speed networking event and tickets to the Bulls game. The students are part of Youth Guidance's Working on



Scientists recently removed some bones from Sue the T.Rex at the Field Museum to send them to the University of Illinois at Chicago for a CT Scan.

Womanhood (WOW) therapeutic program, which mentors female students from Chicago's under-re-sourced communities. For more information, call (312) 994-8144.

#### **UNICEF GALA**

The Midwest Regional Office of **UNICEF USA** will host the twelfth annual UNICEF Gala Chicago at the Geraghty, 2520 S. Hoyne Ave, on Saturday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m. The group will present its UNICEF Children First Award to Rotary

International to honor its contribution toward betterment for children worldwide. The evening also will feature interactive UNICEF installations, dinner, a live auction, and entertainment. Log on to www.unicefgalachi.org.

#### UIC INFORMATION

The **University of Illinois at Chicago** has named Mark Rosenblatt, MD, dean of the college. He is Illinois Lions/Charles I. Young Chair of ophthalmology and visual sciences at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago.

The university recently performed a CT scan on bones from Sue, the T.Rex, at the Field Museum to determine if she had any diseases or injuries.

#### WOMAN MADE NEWS

**Woman Made Gallery** will host an exhibition, Abstractly Speaking, from Friday through Saturday, April 5 through 27. The gallery is at 2150 S. Canalport Ave. Call (312) 738-0400 or log on to https://womanmade.org/.

#### WCA NEWS

The West Central Association welcomed four new board members: Erin Lavin Cabonargi, former director of development services at Sterling Bay and executive director of the Public Building Commission of Chicago; Andy Elzroth, principal and director of business development at Multiple Inc.; Charlie Moriarty, general manager of the Feil Organization's Midwest portfolio; and Cindi Webber, director of business development for Sound Investment AV.

The WCA is located at 850 W. Madison St. Call (312) 801-2166.





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### 618 S. LAFLIN STREET (G) ONE-OF-A-KIND 3 BEDROOM/3.5 BATH TOWN-HOUSE in Garibaldi Square Complex in Little Italy/ University Village Area. Features Include: HW Floors,

Doors & Trim, Marble Entry Foyer, 2 WB FP, Master Bedroom w/Master Bath, Eat-in Kit w/Island & Full Line of Apps, In-unit Full Sized W/D, Private Patio, Large Loft w/Rooftop Deck AND 1-Car Garage w/ Additional Parking Available on Apron. Adjacent to Beautiful Garibaldi Park. Walking Distance to U of I & Med Center. Just Minutes to Downtown & the Lakefront



#### 337 W ELOURNOY #28

UNIQUE VINTAGE ONE BEDROOM COACHHOUSE CONDO Located in the Little Italy/University Village Area. Features Include: HW Floors. Full Line of Apps Including In-unit W/D. BSMT Storage. Skylight and Private Gated Courtyard Area. Great Place for the First Time Buyer!! Walking Distance to U. of I. & Med Center. One Block to Blue Line. Easy Expressway Accessibility. Just Minutes to the Downtown Business, Theater District AND Lakefront.



#### 832 S. LAFLIN STREE

FOUR BEDROOM TOWNHOME Located in Little Italy/ University Village in the Campus Green Complex. Features Include: HW Floors Thruout, Master BD w/ Master Bath, Oak Doors & Stairs, Skylight, Eat-in Kit w/Granite Countertops & Full Line of SS Apps, Laundry/Utility Rm w/Full Sized W/D, Separate Dining Rm w/Granite Floor, Balcony, Large Family Rm, Private Gated Patio and Off-Street Parking. Walking Distance to One of the Largest Med Centers in the Country. Minutes to Downtown & Lakefront.



#### 1613 W GRAND AVENUE-UNIT #1

GORGEOUS-GIANT 3 BEDROOM/3 FULL BATH DU-PLEX CONDO in Ideal West Loop Location-Steps to West Loop/Fulton Market, Union Park, CTA Green Line & Ukrainian Village. Fresh Neutral Paint Thruout. Solid Oak HW Floors. Kit has Full Line of SS Apps, Granite Counters & Maple Cabs. Bright Living Space w/FP. 2-Generous Bedrooms & 2-Full Baths on Main Level. Lower Level Features a Huge Family Room w/Wet Bar & Second FP-as well as 3rd Bedroom & 3rd -Full Bath. In-unit Laundry, Central Air & Heat, Big Back Deck, Garage Parking. IMMACULATE Unit /RED HOT Location!!

\$599.000

\$349,000

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PRISTINE-MOVE IN READY- 2 BED/2 BATH at Paramount Lofts in Red Hot West Loop Location-Steps to Randolph Street Restaurants. Fulton Market. Union Park United Center UIC/Bush Med Center and Much More. Light & Airy East Facing Corner Unit w/12' Ceilings. Bright Open Floorplan and Incredible Skyline Views. Fresh Neutral Paint & Refinished Solid Oak HW Floors. Kit w/Granite Counters & Full Line of SS Apps. Both Bedrooms w/Windows, Ample Closet Space & Brand New Carpeting. Master Suite w/Walk Thru Closet to Master Attached Bath. Gas FP. In-unit Laundry. Big Balcony. Elevator BLDG w/Exercise Room & 24 hr. Door Staff. 1-Garage Space Included.



VERY RARE TO MARKET MIXED-USE BUILDING on Taylor Street in Prime Little Italy Location In-Between UIC East Campus and Illinois Medical District, Classic Grevstone w/Front Bay Windows. Store Front Currently a Restaurant. Two Spacious, Easily Rented 3-Bedroom Apartments Upstairs. New Back Porch. Parking for 5-Cars in Back. INCREDIBLE INVESTMENT OPPOR-TUNITY

\$1,200,000

\$229,000

\$219.500



TWO UNIT VICTORIAN APARTMENT BUILI cated in the Little Italy/University Village the Street From Sheridan Park and Taylor Street. Property Requires Extens rs and Will Be Sold in "AS IS" Condition Converted into a Single Family Home OR **CIPE** vn & Build an Apartment Building OR Sin y Home. Walking Distance to Universit and Medical District.

\$379.000

\$559.000



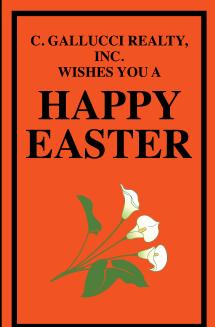
#### 20 S. LAFLIN STREET

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