

GAZETTE

CHICAGO

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INSIDE



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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

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UI Cancer Center aims to increase survivorships in local communities. See page 8.

Controversial Chicago emergency services training center prepares to break ground

By Igor Studenkov

Within weeks of the run-off mayoral election, despite both candidates urging delay, on March 13 the Chicago City Council voted 38-8 to approve the controversial Chicago public safety training center.

The facility, to be built at 4301 W. Chicago Ave., will replace the current police and fire academies. The chiefs of both departments described it as a much needed, more modern replacement for

what they called cramped, outdated facilities.

Ald. Emma Mitts, whose 37th Ward includes the site, has advocated vocally for it, arguing it will act as a catalyst for economic development on the much neglected West Side. Other West Side aldermen, including Ald. Walter Burnett (27th Ward) and Ald. Jason Ervin (28th Ward), also support it.

The proposal also attracted opposition, however, from community residents, and candidates who ran against Mitts in the Feb.

26 election. They argued the estimated \$95 million cost would be better spent on improving schools, mental health services, and job training because those services actually would address root causes of crime and violence.

Officially known as the Joint Public Safety Training Center, the new facility has been in the works since summer 2017. It will go up on a long vacant industrial site in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood, near West Garfield Park.

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One Central Station plan would link South Loop, lakefront

By Monica M. Walk

A development company soon may truly build castles in the air, complete with unobstructed Chicago lakefront views. Landmark Development announced its vision to create and build a platform infrastructure over the Metra rail yard just north of McCormick Place, which will hold a combination of residential and commercial buildings, public green spaces, parking, and a revitalized transit hub.

Building in the air space over
Continued on page 10



One Central Station would have a combination of residential and commercial buildings, public green spaces, parking, and a revitalized transit hub.

Is MeterSave cause of lead in drinking water?

By Peter Winslow

The drinking water supplied to thousands of Chicago residences contains elevated and potentially dangerous levels of lead. Within the past few months, the Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM) sent letters to homeowners affected by possible elevated lead levels; most of those receiving notice live in the city's southwestern portion.

Part of the blame for this hike

in heavy metal goes to DWM's MeterSave Program. This initiative is designed to conserve water and cut water bills for those eligible to participate. Applicants for MeterSave must own a non-metered, single-family or two-flat residence and volunteer to have workers install a new water meter.

In 2016, the DWM launched an explorative study to investigate water quality in Chicago homes equipped with MeterSave Program water meters, along with

the City's infrastructure of lead pipe service lines, to determine whether Chicagoans are at risk from harmful contaminants.

Although the DWM investigation is ongoing, a recently released preliminary data report states investigators found higher concentrations of lead, specifically above the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action level, in 51 of the 296 single-family homes tested before and after

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Lightfoot wins big locally; Conyears-Ervin and Sigcho-Lopez embrace new roles

By William S. Bike

Chicago's lineup of elected officials is going to look very different after the April 2 election.

Former Federal prosecutor **Lori Lightfoot**, endorsed by *Gazette Chicago* in both the February and April elections, beat Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, with 386,039 votes for 73.7% for Lightfoot and 137,765 for 26.3% for Preckwinkle.

Despite post-election media criticism of the public for "low turnout," Lightfoot actually tallied more votes in her 2019 runoff victory than Mayor Rahm Emanuel did in the 2015 runoff. Lightfoot's 2019 total of 386,039 bested Emanuel's 2015 total of 332,171. Overall, turnout for the 2019 runoff was down about 8.5% from the 2015 runoff total.

Lightfoot also exceeded Emanuel's 2011 vote total, and Richard M. Daley's winning totals in 2007 and 2003. The 2019 voter turnout of 504,123 was higher than the 2007 total of 456,765, and the 2003 total of 463,145.

"This is a historic achievement and the start of a new day for our diverse, incredible city," Lightfoot said. "We won this election because we know we're better together, Chicago. Let's keep the momentum going."

Lightfoot won every one of Chicago's 50 wards, including the eight wards that comprise this community.

Ward totals

In the 3rd Ward, Lightfoot tallied 9,284 votes for 70.01%, to Preckwinkle's 3,977 for 29.99%. The 4th Ward saw 8,663 votes and 59.72% for Lightfoot, and 5,842 and 40.28% for Preckwinkle.

The 11th Ward saw 6,483 votes and 74.31% for Lightfoot and 2,241 and 25.69% for Preckwinkle. The 12th Ward contributed 3,061 votes and 74.35% for Lightfoot and 1,056 for 25.65% for Preckwinkle.

In the 25th Ward, Lightfoot scored 6,883 votes for 71.81%,

while Preckwinkle tallied 2,702 for 28.19%. The 27th Ward saw 7,414 votes and 70.78% for Lightfoot, and 3,061 and 29.22% for Preckwinkle.

The 28th Ward saw 6,004 voters, 71.81%, come out for Lightfoot, and 2,357, 28.19%, for Preckwinkle. In the 42nd Ward, Lightfoot scored her biggest totals, 11,086 votes for 84.32%, to Preckwinkle's 2,061 for 15.68%.

In the race for City Treasurer, 10th District State Representative **Melissa Conyears-Ervin** defeated North Side Alderman Ameya Pawar. Conyears-Ervin tallied 296,293 votes for 59.38%, to Pawar's 202,740 for 40.62%.

"I am incredibly honored, humbled, and excited to have been elected Chicago's next Treasurer by voters across the city," Conyears-Ervin said. "I am also extremely eager to begin enacting change that will allow residents throughout the city to enjoy and contribute to Chicago's growing prosperity, regardless of their ZIP code. It is time working families and small business owners in all neighborhoods have equal financial opportunities."

Conyears-Ervin received *Gazette Chicago's* endorsement.

"I was honored and excited to receive the *Gazette's* endorsement during both rounds of the election," she said. "To have the support of an independent paper that acts as a voice for the community means a lot to me. I think the endorsement helped show voters that my candidacy for the office was focused on helping them and ensuring that I would be a watchdog for taxpayers' dollars."

Conyears-Ervin promised to "convene a meeting with the CEOs of financial institutions that Chicago works with, and I expect them to present a plan for how to increase access, equity, and opportunities for working families. The banking industry has a responsibility to invest in working families and small businesses. As



Lori Lightfoot.

Treasurer, I will be committed to working only with banks that work for Chicago's residents."

The 25th Ward was the only ward locally that went to an April 2 runoff. **Byron Sigcho-Lopez**, former head of Pilsen Alliance, defeated health care professional Alex Acevedo. Sigcho-Lopez tallied 5,224 for 54.2%, to 4,414 for 45.8% for Acevedo.

"To the voters who elected me, I want to say thank you for your endurance and civic engagement, your trust, and for building something better for our communities," Sigcho-Lopez said. "To all the residents of the ward, I want to reiterate my commitment to working with each community to be the engaged and present representative they deserve. I can't do this alone and am grateful for everyone who is eager to help strengthen our communities together."

Sigcho-Lopez won endorsement by *Gazette Chicago* in both rounds.

"I am very grateful for the *Gazette Chicago* endorsement," Sigcho-Lopez said. "*Gazette Chicago* consistently and thoroughly informed readers about candidate priorities and how they aligned with priorities for the 25th Ward, and I'm grateful that my campaign commitments resonated with the *Gazette* and with a majority of voters."



Melissa Conyears-Ervin.

As he added, "*Gazette Chicago* continued to report in depth on critical issues facing our community, and journalists at the *Gazette Chicago* sometimes challenged me to step up and consider all perspectives on various issues. I hope that, as an elected official, *Gazette Chicago* challenges me to govern fairly and in accordance with our shared values and principles. I remain committed to being accessible, fighting for legislatively united communities, and continuing to listen to community stakeholders as we work to move our communities and city forward."

Sigcho-Lopez succeeds Alderman Daniel Solis, who chose not to run again after being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and wearing an FBI wire. Sigcho-Lopez frequently battled Solis over the years on neighborhood issues when Sigcho-Lopez ran Pilsen Alliance.

The 25th Ward includes Pilsen, Chinatown, the West Loop, and the Near West Side.

Sigcho-Lopez favors an elected school board, better school funding, and a Civilian Police Accountability Council. He opposes the rampant gentrification that Solis did little to stop.

He is one of ten City Council members who consider themselves

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New Epiphany Center for the Arts is slated to open in November

By Nathan Worcester

Despite local residents' concerns about liquor sales and hours of operation, the Epiphany Center for the Arts (ECA) is moving closer to completion.

"We are now taking reservations for events from November 1 and beyond," ECA developer David Chase said, noting his "target for a final occupancy permit is August/September."

Chase is president and CEO of Emerging Interests LLC. He also leads BCG Enterprises LLC.

The ECA will occupy the former Church of the Epiphany at 201 S. Ashland Ave. The complex also includes parish buildings and two modern buildings. The church and parish buildings form part of the Jackson Boulevard Historic District, making them official Chicago landmarks. Chicago has not landmarked the two modern buildings.

A presentation by Chase indicated the ECA would have several eclectic features, including a café with indoor and outdoor seating, artist studios, a bar, and a showcase kitchen. The church's massive sanctuary will host large weddings,

corporate functions, bar and bat mitzvahs, performance art, and other events.

The presentation also indicated several artists have expressed interest in performing at the ECA, including blues musician Sheryl Youngblood, jazz vocalist Erin McDougald, folk musician Ian Maksin, and jazz and blues band the Flat Cats.

Chase hopes to persuade the City to eliminate a ban on liquor sales at the site. That goal would require temporarily lifting a moratorium on liquor sales along Ashland Avenue between Congress Parkway and Adams Street so officials could approve his liquor license applications.

When asked how the ECA would fare if it could not sell liquor, Chase replied it "would be extremely detrimental to operations."

In August 2018, Nike rented the property for its "Just Do It HQ at the Church," a pop-up youth basketball camp with guests including Chicago Bulls power forward Lauri Markkanen. According to Chase, Nike's contractor installed temporary lighting during this event, angering "three or four people" in the

Continued on page 4

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New Epiphany Center for the Arts is slated to open in November

Continued from page 3
neighborhood and touching off a local controversy.

Concerned about lighting

“We were concerned about the lighting for the Nike event,” said Ward Miller, executive director of Preservation Chicago. “We were reassured that that was a kick-off event. I think everybody’s a little apprehensive because of the Nike event, but I think there’s a lot of trust in David Chase. I think everybody’s hopeful that David Chase and his wife and his company will really make this a remarkable venue.”

“Quite frankly, certain people over-reacted,” Chase said. He added that 28th Ward Alderman Jason Ervin “rightfully so provided them with a platform to express their concerns, which is what the most recent meeting was all about. In that meeting the alderman made it very clear that we had submitted and gained general acceptance of a plan of operation by both he and 12th District Police Commander Stephen C. Chung, and the only open issues were hours of operations, hours for outdoor patio, and closing time.”

Chase’s presentation included correspondence with Ervin and Chung’s representative, which his



Photo courtesy Preservation Chicago

The sanctuary at the old Church of the Epiphany will serve as a performance and event venue when it becomes the Epiphany Center for the Arts.

presentation indicated supported his plan of operation. Ervin and Chung could not be reached for comment.

An email, labeled “Commander letter of support” and authored by Sgt. Karlene Gurtowski of the Chicago Police Department, began by saying, “I reviewed everything with Commander Chung before I left. He is requiring a plan of operation for your business. I sent the approval letter on the condition of a plan of operation being implemented... I let them know what

items the Commander would like to see covered in the plan: no third party promoters, security guards, security cameras (with 30-day retention), lighting, littering, noise, loitering, criminal activity, not operating as a night club... [and] hours of operation.”

Chase wants to keep the ECA open from 8 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. He wants the outdoor patio open from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 10 a.m.

to 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Members of the One Historic Boulevard Homeowners’ Association, a townhouse development abutting the ECA, object to these proposed hours as well as other aspects of the proposed plan of operation.

“We all want to see something in that church, but we want to see something respectful,” said one resident.

“I’m fearful of people on the block at 3 a.m.” said another resident. “It’s a pretty big venue, too. I can only imagine what capacity folks would have to bring some pretty bad stuff to our front door.”

Association suggestions

The association responded to Chase’s proposed plan of operation with a redlined version. They want the ECA to close by 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and by 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. They want the outdoor patio closed by 10 p.m. every day of the week.

The redlined document indicates they also want the plan to specify a larger number of prohibited uses for the ECA, including cabaret, cocktail lounge, tavern, dance club, and adult entertainment facility. Additionally, they want to raise the minimum



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admission age for performances from 17 to 21.

Those residents also took issue with Chase's characterization of their opposition. One resident said concerns about the lighting in August have "nothing to do with our objections to his concept of late night hours." The resident added that the controversy over lighting arose over fears that Nike's use of the space "was the shape of things to come."

Multiple residents said Chase's ECA plan has changed significantly since he first presented it to the neighborhood in early 2017, evolving from a community arts organization like the Beverly Arts Center where alcohol is supplied by third party caterers into a large-scale events venue selling alcohol directly to patrons.

"He's essentially gaslighting us" about a 2017 presentation being consistent with presentations given in 2018 and 2019, said one resident.

When asked to provide that 2017 presentation, Chase responded, "I provided the alderman with a PowerPoint which contains the salient documents excerpted from the presentation; if he chooses to give that information to you, fine."

As of press time, Alderman Ervin's office had not responded to a request for that presentation.

May Toy of Neighbors of West Loop (NoWL), a group from which

Chase claimed he "secured unanimous support" in the above mentioned presentation, said Chase had mentioned obtaining a liquor license at the February 2017 meeting that first introduced the project to community residents.

NoWL's meeting notes from a second meeting in July 2017 likewise indicate liquor licensing was mentioned at that meeting. According to those notes, "The development team intends to obtain a liquor license to use the facility as an event space, however, they expect food for the events would be catered (i.e., not cooked on-site)."

"Our position has been that we are supportive of the project in that it re-purposes the property while keeping intact the historic architectural elements and creating an arts and cultural element in the West Loop, but our position has always been and remains that a plan of operation should be incorporated into the planned development agreement to protect the community interest long term," added Toy. "I don't know that our support can be termed unanimous without these caveats, which we have expressed consistently since the first community meeting. We believe all projects should have a plan of operation that is a compromise negotiated with neighborhood residents' input."

As of press time, Alderman
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South Loop School expands into new building for more students

By Dolly Duplantier

Beginning in fall 2019, South Loop Elementary School will expand to its new location at 16th and Dearborn Streets. For the first time in approximately ten years, the school will have enough space to accommodate its growing population.

Parents have complained for years about overcrowded conditions at the existing school located at 1212 S. Plymouth Ct. Built in the late 1980s, the school was created to accommodate 690 students. Current enrollment is at 800.

Over the years, one by one, the school gave up rooms for art, music, band, computers, and even the library to make space for the increasing number of students. The school also phased out its Regional Gifted Center to make room for its neighborhood program; that program now is located at the National Teachers Elementary Academy (NTA) at 55 W. Cermak Rd.

The new South Loop Elementary building, which can accommodate 1,200 students in grades four through eight, is a 120,000-square-foot, four-story facility with 32 classrooms. The site boasts computer and science labs as well as dedicated art and music rooms. In addition, the facility will include a kitchen and lunchroom,



South Loop Elementary School held a ribbon cutting ceremony in February for its new school building.

gymnasium with stage, student services center, multipurpose room, and rooftop play area. The site is also home to a ground-level play lot and a parking lot made with a permeable storm water detention system.

The existing building on South Plymouth Court will remain for grades kindergarten through third. Now, with both buildings, the South Loop Elementary School has the capacity to serve approximately 1,770 students. With the South Loop continuing to grow, this is good news for many young

families wanting to stay in the city.

Tara Shelton has been principal of South Loop Elementary for about 15 years. She is proud of the opportunity to give back to the community. "We've fought hard for the last seven to ten years to get more space to better serve the community," she said.

Some South Loop parents chose not to send their children to the school because of their concerns about overcrowding. "Now they have another option," said Shelton.

Jennifer Rakstad is on the South

Loop School Local School Council. She noted that at one point, the seventh grade class had about 50 students in one classroom. "We had two teachers, but no space for separate classrooms," Rakstad said. "Some parents were opting out of the school. The new school will encourage people to stay."

Sweetie Agrawal has two children at the South Loop Elementary School and also is on the LSC. She said, "The kids will have a library they can use throughout the day, a larger cafeteria to accommodate more kids at a time, and dedicated spaces for band and art as well. Students will have their own lockers and larger hallways to get between classes. The new building will also allow the school to have events open to the community, with space for many more parents and community members."

Agrawal added, "We hope it will help the community by having the space to grow into a truly great neighborhood elementary school. We have award-winning teachers and a wonderful band program that finally will have the ability to flourish."

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in current and future students, and in our growing community," said 3rd Ward Alderman Pat Dowell. "Our students are achieving record academic gains, and I look forward to seeing this growth continue in the new building."

Parents, community members, and South Loop administrators worked hard to convince CPS of the need for a larger school. "At one point, we were one of the most overcrowded schools," Rakstad said. "We were constantly building our case, pounding the pavement. We met with City Hall, CPS, and the alderman. We were showing our commitment to the school. They finally recognized we weren't going away."

The school held a ribbon cutting ceremony in February with Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Dowell in attendance. "Early reviews from students, parents, and other stakeholders who have toured the new school have been extremely positive," added Dowell. "To date, I haven't heard one negative comment. We anticipate an exciting school year at the new facility."

With the school's larger capacity, officials had pushed to merge the NTA with South Loop School. In 2017, the Chicago Public Schools recommended to the Board of Education that the boundary for South Loop Elementary School move south to 22nd Street. CPS also recommended the

NTA begin transitioning from an elementary school to a neighborhood high school.

NTA parents fought back, however, and filed suit to stop CPS plans to convert NTA into a high school. In December, a judge granted a preliminary order to block converting the NTA to a high school. According to CPS, they will not appeal the ruling, and the transition will not move forward. NTA will remain an elementary school, and its students will not join South Loop Elementary. The Regional Gifted Center will remain at NTA.

A tuition-based preschool program will again be offered at South Loop Elementary's branch location at 1915 S. Federal St.

South Loop School's new building sits across street from Daystar School at 1550 S. State St. Daystar is a faith-based elementary school that is launching a new private high school in this fall. Shelton said she is working with Daystar administrators to discuss the logistics of traffic patterns and other factors affecting both institutions. "We want to be good neighbors and are working on solutions like staggering the pickup and drop-off times."

"The new school is fantastic for the neighborhood," Rakstad said.

Students who live within the school's attendance boundary can enroll automatically and do

not have to apply. Students living outside the attendance boundary must submit a Standard Elementary Schools application between October and December. The school fills available seats, if any, via computerized lottery. Priority goes to applicants with a sibling currently enrolled in the school in grades kindergarten through seventh and who will remain enrolled in the school for the coming school year.

South Loop Elementary School's boundaries run along the Chicago

River to the west, Wacker Drive to Michigan Avenue to Monroe Street to the north and east, and 18th Street to the south.

Boundaries for NTA are 18th Street to the north, Clark Street and the train tracks to the west, the Stevenson Expressway to East Cermak Road to the south, and South Michigan Avenue to East Cermak Road to the lake to the east.

For more information about South Loop Elementary School, visit <https://southloopschool.org> or see the school's Facebook page.

Sigcho-Lopez looks forward to leading 25th Ward into future

Continued from page 2

Democratic Socialists, a term that frightens some conservatives but that generally means using government activism for the public good in the manner of Presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his New Deal, Harry Truman and his Fair Deal, John F. Kennedy and his New Frontier, and Lyndon B. Johnson and his Great Society.

"Thank you for the trust you have placed in me, and I look forward to serving the residents of the 25th Ward for the next four years," Sigcho-Lopez concluded. "I will put my all into it."



Byron Sigcho-Lopez.

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UI Cancer Center works to reach local communities through grant

By Jane Lawicki

Through a \$1.5 million grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation and collaboration with suburban Wellness House, residents on Chicago's West and South Sides now can benefit from no-cost cancer screening and survivorship programs through the University of Illinois Cancer Center.

The center's community-based programs will reach traditionally underserved and at-risk communities to promote cancer awareness, screening, and after diagnosis care and support.

"By 2027, it's estimated that more people will be living with cancer than dying from it," said Robert Winn, MD, UI Cancer Center director and associate vice chancellor for the university's community-based practice. "Survivorship needs to be more than an academic concept."

Winn noted, however, that if someone has to travel—take three buses and a train, for example—to obtain health care, that person is less likely to be screened or participate in after diagnosis care. "We need to be proactive, to get out to the communities," he said.



Robert Winn, MD, UI Cancer Center director, is working to improve conditions for cancer survivors and increase outreach to underserved communities.

Intended to bridge what happens in the scientific lab with what people experience in real life, outreach efforts will rely on community navigators to reach more than 600 people living in high-need areas and work directly in those communities to help remove barriers to obtaining an early diagnosis, a key factor in long-term and lifetime cancer survival.



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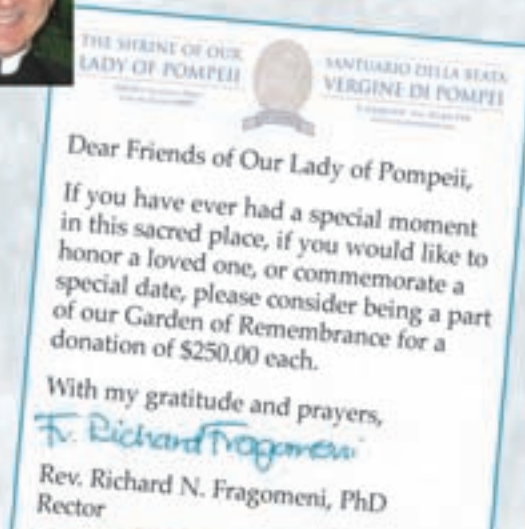
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Gary Puckett, program manager for the North Lawndale Adult Transition Center, 2839 W. Fillmore St., is one such navigator, concerned not only for his own health but the health of those he helps. He recently brought seven residents from the 200-person facility he manages to a free head, neck, and oral cancer screening at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Mile Square Health Center, 1220 S. Wood St.

"This screening is a godsend for us," said Puckett, noting the process took only five to ten minutes and everyone was welcoming. "I've been impressed by Mile Square and UIC. We can introduce people here to resources they may not be aware of otherwise."

Free programs

As part of cancer survivorship outreach, Wellness House will offer more than 40 free programs each month at Mile Square Health Center and the Cancer Care Outpatient Care Center, 1801 W. Taylor Street. Programs include Exercise for Staying Well; Cooking for Wellness; Tai Chi Fundamentals; Expressive Arts; and networking groups for men, women, and young adults.

The clinics not only will help local residents and reduce cancer disparities in vulnerable populations but will educate researchers on how to best treat cancer



Photo by Sam Hostettler

Moriyike Akinosun, a fourth year medical student at UIC, examines Petra Garcia on April 10 at UI Health Mile Square Health Center.

patients. By gathering data from underrepresented communities, researchers will be better informed so they can help shape better clinical practices and improve cancer screening, screening processes, and medical approaches.

"In the 21st century, we're bringing together technology, miracle drugs, miracle therapies, and big data," Winn explained. "But big data will not be helpful if certain communities are invisible. Being in the community, being part of the community, will help us to position ourselves to have better data, improve our data science. It's not just about new discoveries—new

drugs or technologies or community engagement—it's both."

The UI Cancer Center will use the three-year Bristol-Myers Squibb grant to develop population-specific cervical and colorectal cancer prevention and screening programs at community hospitals or health centers in the Austin, Humboldt Park, and South Shore neighborhoods. Community conversations and data have shown high incidence of these cancer types with low access and awareness of screening programs in these areas. By supporting participation in preventive cancer care, however, cancer

outcomes and survivorship rates can improve.

"With our programs, we are focused on helping keep our community healthy and out of the hospital," Winn said. "We want all people, regardless of ZIP code or skin color, to have their best chance for a long and healthy life."

As part of community outreach to underserved communities, the Cancer Center will host free smoking cessation sessions every Tuesday from May 7 through June 18 at Avalon Park, 1215 E. 83rd St., 6 to 8 p.m. To register, call Barbara Williams at (312) 996-0055.

At the Mile Square facility at 1220 S. Wood St., the Cancer Center hosts breast cancer screenings. To schedule a mammogram, Call Paola Torres at (312) 413-0119.

For more about the Cancer Center, call (312) 355-1625 or log on to <https://cancer.uillinois.edu>. The Cancer Center is part of the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System (UI Health).

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Proposed One Central development would join North and South Loop

Continued from page 1

the tracks is a unique solution to increase access to current South Loop attractions, including Soldier Field, while creating additional use for the well located but underused area.

Developers shared details for the initial One Central Station concept in mid-March. They include development along a 15-year time frame to create the largest public transit hub in the Chicago area while revitalizing 34 acres adjacent to several downtown cultural institutions to include urban housing; office space; and destination retail, dining, and entertainment at a Lake Shore Drive address.

“There is no single location in the entire country that has the potential this site does,” said Robert Dunn, president of Landmark Development. “One Central builds on the Burnham Plan vision by connecting transit, civic and community interests at one lakefront destination.”

Dunn partners with Gerald Fogelson in Landmark Development. Both men have significant development experience: Dunn’s Hammes Company built the University of Wisconsin Madison Kohl Center and worked on National Football League stadium projects including

MetLife Stadium, Lambeau Field, Ford Field, and the Minnesota Vikings’ stadium. Fogelson re-developed Chicago’s Central Station residential neighborhood. As master developer at One Central Station, Landmark is collaborating with a team of building professionals who have created projects and infrastructure abroad and in the U.S.

Town hall meeting

Third Ward Alderman Pat Dowell hosted a town hall meeting March 13 for the first public discussion of the development plan, noting that the project remains a proposal at this time. “It’s in its infancy, and any development over the tracks must go through many approval stages before it goes to City Council for a vote,” Dowell said. “This is not the last time the One Central Station development will be reviewed by the public or the City.”

Dowell invited Landmark to bring its ideas to the community and gather feedback before submitting official plans to the City of Chicago. The proposed project would be private property; Landmark owns the air rights over the Metra tracks.

“There are, of course, limitations on what can be built on this

property and legal restrictions and covenants the developers must adhere to,” Dowell said. “Specifics on those regulations will be addressed by Landmark Development. Also, please know that I have not signed off on any aspect of this proposal. Development over the tracks must receive my support before moving forward.”

Several days after the meeting, Dowell released a follow-up statement, citing five main areas of concern:

“First and foremost, I agree with the residents’ assessment that the project as presented at the town hall meeting as being too dense and the height of the buildings too tall. This will be a major point of discussion with the Landmark Development team. Significant revisions to building design and project density must be made.

“Second, designating Mark Twain Park as the main pedestrian access point to One Central must be moved. While pedestrian and traffic access to the property in general will need to be discussed, I will be asking the developer to move pedestrian access out of Mark Twain Park.

“Third, I am interested in the benefits of the proposed transit hub. However, if it includes a CTA

Orange Line extension, there will have to be measures put in place to mitigate the sound and physical impacts to affected residents. Existing residents cannot be impacted by another train line in the area.

“Fourth, security is a major concern for the development. It is important that the character and integrity of the existing neighborhood be maintained. That means that the influx of new residents, office workers, visitors, and commuters to the area must be managed in a way that ensures they can get to their desired destination safely and quickly without disturbing the existing community. Additionally, the physical security around the transit station must be increased and designed in a way to limit any potential conflicts with the neighborhood.

“Fifth, I will be requesting a more complete construction schedule and discussing ways to minimize the impact of construction on the community. Included in this discussion will be the future of the Metra tracks north of McFetridge Drive to Roosevelt Road. This section of tracks is not part of the One Central development area, but its future as possible park land should be part of the development discussion.”

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PHOTO: 5/27/19, 4/1/19

Dowell also emphasized that, overall, the One Central plan does create an opportunity to develop an underused area of the city. She cited the transit hub's potential assets, increased retail and park space, and a possible neighborhood high school in the South Loop.

"However, numerous revisions and compromises are needed," Dowell noted. "I will continue to work with the developer and the community to revise the proposal to address needs of the residents of the 3rd Ward. We are at the beginning of a community process."

SLN's watchful eye

South Loop Neighbors President Jim Wales promises his group will keep a watchful eye as plans unfold.

"Representatives of the SLN board attended the public meeting and will continue to monitor the development as it evolves," Wales said. "At the current time, although there may be some concerns with certain aspects of the initial plan as outlined at the public meeting, we really don't have enough information at this point, and we await additional information."

Landmark Development also stated the project is in its early stages and the company will continue to collect feedback from community stakeholders as well as share ongoing design and



Developers hope to revitalize 34 acres adjacent to several downtown cultural institutions to include urban housing; office space; and destination retail, dining, and entertainment.

architecture plans at future public meetings. The organization believes the project would support continued economic growth in the city and has the potential to create tens of thousands of jobs.

To contact Dowell, or for more details on the Third Ward town hall meeting, log on to at www.Ward03Chicago.com.

Ward03Chicago.com.

More information from Landmark Development on current One Central plans, including artist renderings, is available at <https://www.onecentralchicago.com/>.

For more on the South Loop Neighbors, log on to www.southloopneighbors.org.

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Is there lead in my drinking water? MeterSave disruption may be cause

Continued from page 1

meter installation. Roughly 20% of the homes studied thus far had elevated levels only after meter installation.

Despite the relatively small sample size in comparison to the amount of single-family dwellings in Chicago, these findings nonetheless raise concern, as workers have installed more than 130,000 water meters since MeterSave Program began in 2009.

Chicago, like other large cities, uses anti-corrosion techniques to minimize the potential for harmful contaminants to enter the water supply. The city adds blended phosphate to its water, which forms a protective coating on the water service lines from treatment facilities to homes.

DWM investigation

The DWM's investigation suggests its water meter installation could disrupt the protective phosphate coating in water service lines, allowing the residential water supply to absorb lead.

"There has not been one determination of causation," said Megan Vidis, director of media relations of the DWM, regarding the elevated levels. Besides meter installation, higher lead concentrations could stem from low water



Photo by Christopher Valentino

There are concerns that meter installation in older homes may contribute to higher lead levels in drinking water.

usage, old plumbing fixtures, and replacing lead service lines, Vidis indicated.

Many Chicago single-family homes built before 1986 have lead service lines transporting drinking water to faucets, showers, and other fixtures. Service lines connect the City's water mains to these older structures. The DWM is working with CDM Smith, a global engineering firm, to evaluate dynamic variables that factor into replacing lead service lines. The two entities are working

together to determine a feasible approach for uprooting the service lines, an endeavor that more than likely will carry a multi-billion dollar price tag and take many years to complete.

Regarding specific wards affected, Vidis said there is no geographical correlation between elevated lead levels and water meter installation.

As a temporary remedy, the DWM said the City will provide free water filters to any household that previously tested above

the EPA action level. It also promises to conduct water quality testing for homes equipped with MeterSave meters and those without, free of charge, upon request.

So what makes lead so dangerous? Lead is a neurotoxin, and once it enters the body it gets stored in bones, blood, and tissue. Long term, chronic exposure in adults can lead to increased likelihood of high blood pressure, kidney disease, and brain damage. Children are at higher risk of lead poisoning due to the possibility for irreversible damage in a body that is not fully developed.

Residents and City officials worry over how the City will implement solutions to resolve this problem.

Cardenas wants hearings

"I plan on facilitating hearings regarding the contamination of lead in our water," said 12th Ward Alderman George Cardenas.

"We need to understand the science of this," he added. "At the end of the day, exposing water to contamination is not something to be lackadaisical about." Cardenas said he hopes to schedule public hearings as soon as the second week of May.

Other preventive action individuals can take to aid and maintain

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Investigators have found water supplies in some homes contain elevated lead levels.

water quality includes “flushing” a residence’s water system continuously for five minutes, especially when it has been stagnant for six hours or more. Ways of flushing include doing the dishes, taking a shower, or running water from a faucet.

Anyone interested in requesting a water quality test may call 3-1-1 to receive a test kit. For more information and to view results of water quality tests, visit www.chicagowaterquality.org.

For the Department of Water Management, call (312) 744-4420. For Cardenas’s office, call (773) 523-8250.

Epiphany Center for the Arts slated to open in November

Continued from page 5

Ervin’s office had not confirmed whether officials will schedule a new community meeting. “They haven’t set a future date,” said Shawn Smith, who is in charge of constituent services and ward

surveying for the 28th Ward. Smith added that «residents affected by that particular church» would be notified of any meeting by mail, though he was unable to provide the range of addresses that would receive those mailings or confirm

whether Alderman Ervin would use Facebook or any other medium to make residents aware of the meeting.

To contact Ervin, log on to www.aldermanervin.com or call (773) 533-0900.

Skinner West Elementary School annex opens

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Alderman Walter Burnett of the 27th Ward, and other dignitaries cut the ribbon recently on the 36,000-square-foot annex at Skinner West Elementary School. The four-story annex, located at 1260 W. Adams St., has 22 classrooms, including an art room, computer room, and science lab, as well as a multi-purpose room that can accommodate up to 120 students for lunch.

“Skinner students are working hard to live up to their promise and potential, and this new annex will help ensure they are earning the first-rate education they deserve,” said Emanuel. “Expectations are high for Chicago students, and they deserve the space and facilities they need to succeed.”

“An investment in our children is an investment in the future of Chicago, and the state-of-the-art

annex at Skinner will pay off in dividends for generations to come,” said Burnett. “Together with the mayor and our community, I am proud to bring our students the facilities they need to continue concentrating on their studies.”

The Public Building Commission constructed the annex to relieve overcrowding at the school. The addition also includes a new elevator and air conditioning as well as renovations to the existing building and landscape.

The project came in under budget at \$16.6 million. The CPS had originally budgeted \$20 million. Funds came from the CPS Capital Improvement Fund. No Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds were involved.

The City of Chicago has committed to broad investment in capital projects at schools across the city. Investments with CPS



Officials cut the ribbon signaling the opening of the new annex at Skinner West Elementary School.

have included new schools and annexes, playgrounds and air conditioning, improvements and access to technology, new computers and expanded bandwidth, expanded academic programs, and core facilities investments.

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Newsbriefs

Bridgeport teen wins Boys & Girls Clubs' Youth of the Year

Joshua Houston may well be one of the area's few high school athletes who is both an avid poet and rugby player.

Which the UIC College Prep student and Louis L. Valentine Boys & Girls Club member believes only could have helped him form the well rounded personality that won him this year's Chicago Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award.

That award, presented during a recent ceremony attended by more than 1,000 guests, earned Houston more than a trophy. He also received a \$1,000 scholarship, four tickets to a 2019 White Sox game, and two round-trip tickets to anywhere in the U.S., courtesy of United Airlines.

He has not yet decided on California or Hawaii. He has, however, settled on majoring in psychology, then going to law school and possibly having a career as a defense attorney.

If many people consider the Beverly native and Bridgeport club participant remarkable, that is not so unusual at the Valentine Boys & Girls Club, 3400 S. Emerald Ave., according to Raul Rodriguez, the club's program director who was himself a product of the Valentine club.

Part of Rodriguez's job today includes helping club members such as Houston prepare for all the hoops they must jump through to achieve success.

Houston said the club, which he has attended since second grade, helped him find out who he really is "being Black in Chicago. It also helped me grow up. When I wasn't at school, I was at the club."

He said he has been able to "give back" to the club by helping younger children with homework and doing cleanup when needed.

At the same time, Houston



Joshua Houston of Bridgeport's Valentine Boys & Girls Club earns Youth of the Year Award.

remained right on top of his preparations for the Youth of the Year competition, Rodriguez noted.

Houston admitted he was not exactly a stranger to the process, as his sister, Mikealah, was a candidate in the Youth of the Year competition last year.

Houston also has started an after-school poetry program and serves as a leader of the Peacemaker's Club, a joint program of the Boys & Girls Club and After School Matters, which includes open mic opportunities for youngsters to talk about violence and its causes.

"The kids just want to make a change in the city," Houston said.

Like the Houstons, Rodriguez volunteered at the club while attending De La Salle Institute and eventually ended up working at the club full time.

"Our goal here at the Valentine Club is to offer a good, safe experience because we do live in a dangerous city," Rodriguez said, pointing to Josh Houston as "an example of what we want our kids to become."

The club also makes it possible to meet all kinds of people of many nationalities and cultures, Houston pointed out.

"We have kids coming from all

over the city," club director Dawn Jiminez said, noting that, "during the summer months, we have kids from the suburbs as well. Because the club is centrally located and really easy to get to, we have people travel here and for the programs. At pickup time, you can see everyone is from everywhere."

Over the years, a number of famous Chicagoans, including members of the Daley family, have been members, Jiminez noted. "The wonderful thing is that, because they gained so much" from the club, "we have people coming back to make donations, volunteer their time, or join the club council."

Two years ago, the club received a special visit from Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympian in modern history, who gave water safety lessons while visiting with youngsters, Jiminez noted.

Founded 81 years ago, the club is an unofficial community landmark thanks to the two totem poles at the front door. Jiminez explained that they were made at the behest of the club's founder, Louis Valentine, a furniture maker who wanted them to be his way of blessing every child who came into the club.

For more information, call (773) 927-7373.

—Patrick Butler

Police make progress in church burglaries

Ninth District Police have made progress in investigating recent burglaries of religious institutions in the Back of the Yards area.

Following a theft valued at \$500 took place at Port Ministries, 5013 S. Hermitage Ave., Detective Robert Vahl stated police have arrested a suspect.

Port Ministries, started by the Rev. Augustin Milon, a Roman Catholic priest, offers services to the community such as food, a health clinic, classes, and workshops. For

more information log on to www.theporministries.org.

Police are investigating a "person of interest" for multiple burglaries at Iglesia Cristina El Buen Sembrador Church, 1831 W. 50th St., but have not taken anyone into custody yet.

The church offers two Sunday services in Spanish. Call (773) 614-2820.

Vahl stated that police believe "the burglaries are not related."

Other media had reported that New Life Seventh Day Adventist Church at 5001 S. Hermitage Ave. also experienced a burglary, but Vahl and a church spokesperson said these reports were erroneous.

The 9th District Police station is located at 3120 S. Halsted St. For information, call (312) 747-8227.

—Marie Balice Ward

Judge Jesse Reyes running for IL Supreme Court

Illinois First District Appellate Court Judge Jesse Reyes has announced he will run in the Democratic primary for a seat on the Illinois Supreme Court.

The primary will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

"As a descendant of immigrants and a product of a blue collar family, I know of the struggles many people in the State of Illinois have to endure on a daily basis," Reyes said. "I know what it means to have dreams, yet not know if you will ever be able to fulfill them because of your circumstances."

"I seek to serve as a justice on the Illinois Supreme Court because it is the highest calling of public service in this State," he noted. "I can think of no better way to serve the people of this State."

Raised and educated in the Pilsen and Bridgeport community, Reyes was the eldest of four children and the only one to attend college. In 1997, his peers elected

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Judge Jesse Reyes.

him an associate judge on the circuit court.

In 2006, Reyes became the first Latino to lead the Illinois Judges Association. Reyes won election to the First District Appellate Court in November 2012, becoming the first Latino elected to the appellate court in Illinois.

Reyes is the founding member and current president of the Diversity Scholarship Foundation. He is also a founding member and former president of the Illinois Judges Foundation.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and his JD from John Marshall Law School, which is now part of UIC.

His website is JusticeReyes.com.

Newman Center schedules Holy Happy Hour

The St. John Paul II Newman Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago will host Holy Happy Hour Monday, May 20, 5:15 to 8:15 p.m. at Lagunitas Brewing Co., 2607 W. 17th St. There will be a \$10 cover charge, cash bar, pizza, and live music provided by the Rev. Connor Danstrom, director of the Newman Center, and Brother Joe Babcock. The proceeds will go to support the center.

The center is at 700 S. Morgan St. Call (312) 226-1880 or log on to <https://jp2newman.org>.

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Controversial Chicago emergency services training center prepares to break ground

Continued from page 1

According to the City's original request for bids, the facility will include a classroom building with simulators and a fitness area; a physical fitness building with a shooting range, an "active scenario training" area, and a pool for diving training; and an outdoor training space with a driving course, skid pad, and outdoor active shooting area.

Officials proposed the training center a few months after the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) released its Jan. 13, 2017 report on Chicago Police Department (CPD) practices and procedures. The report found a pattern of racial bias, excessive use of force, and violation of citizens' 4th Amendment and other constitutional rights. It pointed to current police officer training and lack of accountability as two major reasons why.

'Deficiencies in training'

"The department found that CPD officers' practices unnecessarily endanger themselves and result in unnecessary and avoidable uses of force," the DOJ said in a statement at the time. "The pattern or practice results from systemic deficiencies in training and accountability, including the failure to train officers in de-escalation and the

failure to conduct meaningful investigations of uses of force."

During Ervin's Jan 17, 2018 community meeting in East Garfield Park, Steven Sesso, a captain from CPD's 11th District, argued the current police academy was not nearly big enough to accommodate the increase in recruiting. At the time, Mayor Rahm Emanuel was promising to increase foot patrols to help fight crime and encourage officers and residents to interact more.

"There's a recognized need for a new police training academy," Sesso said. "The facility at 1300 W. Jackson is way, way too small—especially for the size of what the mayor is talking about."

He said the new facility also will help keep existing officers up to date on changes in policing.

"Our new hires, new recruits, have a new training program," Sesso said. "The problem is, there's no continuing training program. We don't have the facility to handle it."

Based on the cost of building new training facilities elsewhere in the country, Sesso said the new academy would cost around \$1 billion, although others dispute that figure.

The City erected the current police academy in 1976. It built the two current fire department

training facilities, both located in the South Loop, in 1950 and 1965. Fire Commissioner Richard C. Ford testified before various Chicago City Council committees that the current fire training facilities are overcrowded and reflect the time when only men could serve as firefighters.

The City on July 3, 2017, announced it would build a new training center for both the police and fire departments, touting several advantages of the training center, including more capacity, more modern classrooms, and more opportunities for recruits to practice what they learn.

"The scenario training is exactly what CPD needs to give our officers the best hands-on training possible so they can react appropriately in the field regardless of the situation," stated Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson.

Joint training

The City also touted the fact that police officers, firefighters, and paramedics would train in the same space. Then-Fire Commissioner Jose Santiago argued that feature will make all three groups more effective during emergencies.

"The new Public Safety Training Academy will allow fire and police personnel to train together so

both departments know their roles during a response and are prepared to fulfill those roles without hesitation and in the most professional manner possible," he said.

At the time, the City estimated a \$20 million cost to buy the land and \$75 million to build the facility. The City wound up buying the land for \$10 million; the construction contract that came before the City Council on March 13 put the building's cost at \$85 million.

The City emphasized the new training center is one part of the overall strategy to reduce crime and address civil rights and excessive force issues raised by the DOJ report. A consent decree between the City and the Illinois Office of Attorney General specifies that all CPD officers must receive crisis intervention training, which teaches officers how to help people experiencing a mental health crisis. In addition, addressing a concern Sesso raised, it requires officers to get training annually.

For Mitts, the training center offers an opportunity to bring in jobs and encourage development in a community that has seen little of either. On June 28, 2018, she held a community meeting in which City officials outlined how they want to use the training center as a catalyst for economic



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development. Aarti Kotak, who serves as Mayor Rahm Emanuel's deputy chief of staff for Neighborhood Economic Development, said the City wants to bring in sit-down restaurants as well as some retail businesses.

So far, the City has approved leases for two restaurants for the property's corner. Peach's Restaurant of Bronzeville will open a new location along with a training center for culinary workers. Baron Waller, a Culver's franchisee who opened the chain's first Bronzeville location, also will open a restaurant at the training center. As part of the leases, both must hire the majority of their workers from within two miles of the site.

Opposition views

The training center also has attracted opposition, both from within and outside the community. More than 50 community organizations as well as individual activists pooled their resources to launch a #NoCopAcademy campaign. In summer 2018, they released a report not only laying out their position but arguing that it represents what the community actually wants.

According to the report, the activists interviewed 500 West Garfield Park residents—around 2.85% of the neighborhood's population as per the 2016 American Community Survey. The group said 72% of



The new facility will allow for both indoor and outdoor training, diversifying training beyond what the Chicago Police and Fire Departments currently have at their 40-year-old facilities.

respondents said they did not want the training center in the community, while 18% did. As for the cost, 86% believed it wasn't the best use of \$95 million, and 29% of respondents suggested using that money for schools, while 18% of respondents suggested using it to improve housing. Another 18% wanted to put the money into unspecified "other public infrastructure," 16% suggested using it to help community youth, 10% supported using it for jobs, 5% wanted it to improve healthcare, and 3% suggested using it for "criminal justice."

"These results demonstrate a clear and profound desire on the

part of the West Garfield Park residents for meaningful investment that transforms the community and meets human needs, rather than make problems worse by increasing CPD presence," the #NoCopAcademy report stated. "The survey clearly demonstrates that there is far more widespread popular support for the demands of young Black activists seeking resources for youth services."

The situation was not helped by the City choosing Los Angeles-based Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations, and Maintenance (AECOM) Corp., which has a history of cost overruns

and had to stop construction on a Detroit jail because of alleged corruption.

Furthermore, David Reynolds, the current Chicago Fleet Management commissioner, worked as AECOM's vice president in 2006-09, two years before he got his current job. During the March 12 budget committee meeting, Reynolds did not address his employment history but insisted the City will not pay any more than \$85 million and anything above that amount would have to come out of AECOM's pocket.

During the Feb. 28 meeting of the Chicago City Council Committee on Zoning, Landmarks, and Building Standards, several West Side church leaders spoke in support of the project. Michael Eaddy, chairman and pastor at East Garfield Park's People's Church of the Harvest, described himself as a lifelong West Sider who preached at his church for almost 40 years. He recalled West Side economic vitality in the 1960s and argued the training center would help bring at least some of that back to the area.

"It is vitally important that economic vitality come to the West Side," he said, noting the training center "will stimulate employment, it will draw contracts. I'm looking to Ald. Mitts to ensure that a community benefits agreement is put in place to benefit the

Continued on page 18

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Controversial Chicago emergency services training center prepares to break ground

Continued from page 17

community and that dollars will be set aside for services that target our youth and our seniors.”

Rev. Ralph Tolbert, of Austin’s Hamlett-Isom Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, brought up the shootings of Quintonio LeGrier and Bettie Jones as an example of the kind of incidents that could have been avoided if the officers got the kind of training the new training center would provide.

He reminded attendees that police officer Robert Rialmo “sued the city, and he was saying he was not properly trained,” Tolbert said. “I want to be able to eliminate that factor from when our first responders respond,” noting they should not “be able to say they weren’t properly trained by the City.”

Joseph Curtis, who works with area youth, said he respected training center opponents “because they have a legitimate gripe,” he said. “But the kids we’re dealing with on a day-to-day basis, they don’t go to school. They don’t have a chance to have a meal a lot of the time. Those are families we hear from. So when I say that the academy is a good thing, it’s because we not only need to see the kids make a difference, but to be able to make a change.”



Set to sit on 30.4-acres at 4301 W. Chicago Ave in West Garfield Park, the project will provide better facilities for Chicago Police and Fire trainees.

‘Condescending, low bar’

In opposition, Brianna Hampton, who said she lived in West Garfield Park for 14 years, argued the idea that restaurants would provide economic development was condescending and set a low bar for youth.

“I’m 18, and I could intern in a bank, and I need to get downtown,” she said, yet proponents of the academy “want to see me in restaurants.” She noted that a food store, not restaurants, would benefit the community. “We need to go ten miles to get to Pete’s Market to get fresh groceries.”

Hampton also balked at the idea that having a training center in the

community would make youth trust the police more, comparing it to putting someone who’s afraid of mice in a room full of mice.

As the aldermen prepared to vote on the contract with AECOM, Burnett argued the existing West Loop police academy helped the community, and he expected the new training center to do the same.

“Thirty years ago, the area wasn’t safe,” he said. “But we feel safe because of the young recruits. And we are also eating in our area restaurants,” which would not be there “if it were not for the police academy being right there in the community.”

Throughout her campaign,

Mayor-elect Lori Lightfoot said she was not against a training center per se, agreeing that officers needed better training, especially when it comes to respecting residents’ rights. But she took issue with the execution, arguing that the planning process for the training center did not get enough community input and did not take what she described as opponents’ legitimate concerns into account.

After the City Council approved the contract with AECOM, Lightfoot released a statement saying the project “should not have moved one step forward without an explanation of the effects on population density, schools, traffic, and a number of other factors. Our communities need answers. We need a seat at the table. And when we spend hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars on new developments, we need to use these investments as opportunities for community engagement and equitable economic growth. As mayor, I’ll leave the top-down planning and rushed approval processes in the past.”

To reach Alderman Burnett, call (312) 432-1995. Alderman Ervin can be reached at (773) 533-0900. Alderman Mitts can be reached at (773) 379-0950. For #NoCopAcademy, go to <https://nocopacademy.com>.

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Update

Editor's Note: The "Update" section provides the latest information on news items that Gazette Chicago has covered in previous editions.

Starbucks plans draw opposition, support in Bridgeport

Starbucks may be a popular national brand, but the approved plans for building a new 2,300-square-foot Starbucks store and retail complex in a vacant lot at the southwest corner of Halsted and 31st Streets in Bridgeport has drawn both opposition and support.

Opposition is driven primarily by Bridgeport Alliance, a grassroots group of residents working to gather support for their views. Their efforts come in the wake of the City's agreement to sell the commercially zoned land and its approving final plans for the Starbucks, which counts as phase one of a two-part development.

Bridgeport Alliance opposes Starbucks for several reasons, notably the drive-through that members say will increase vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle congestion. It also objects to the coffee giant's potential impact on local,

homegrown competitors.

The group also raised objections to the second phase, consisting of retail development, saying it may block opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

The alliance counts about 30 members and is appealing to a much wider audience, said Quade Gallagher, the group's chair. Alliance member Brianna Tong heads the Starbucks opposition effort, whose activities include contacting Bridgeport residents through a phone bank survey and direct canvassing.

The alliance's phone survey results of 172 respondents as of April 8 indicate the following: 46.8% of residents surveyed oppose the Starbucks, 20.8% are unsure, 26.6% are for it, and 5.8% declined to answer. A total of 55.2% of residents surveyed either strongly oppose or somewhat oppose the drive-through to only 27.9% strongly favoring or somewhat favoring a drive-through. A total of 16.8% either were neutral or declined to answer.

Of people surveyed, the average response to "When a new real estate development is built in Bridgeport, how satisfied are you with the opportunity for

Continued on page 27

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Around the Neighborhood

By William S. Bike

ADULT LITERACY

Adult Leaders for Education, a group connected to the Little Village Education Collaborative-Enlace, has obtained funding from the Chicago Public Schools' Office of Counseling and Postsecondary Advising to expand adult literacy classes to the Learning Center is at 2153 S. Millard Ave. For more information, contact Leticia Diaz at ldiaz@enlacechicago.org.

ADLER PLANETARIUM

The **Adler Planetarium** will have free general admission for Illinois residents on the following days: June 3-5 and 10-13, September 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, and 26-27; Oct. 7-9 and 14-16; Nov. 8 and 11; and Dec. 2-3, 7, and 12-13. The planetarium is at 1300 S. Lake Shore Dr. Log on to www.adlerplanetarium.org.

ART INSTITUTE

Admission to the **Art Institute of Chicago** is free to Illinois residents every Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m.

An exhibition of portraits by Rembrandt is on display through Sunday, June 9. A collection of Japanese prints is being shown through Saturday, June 22.

The Art Institute is at 111 S. Michigan Ave. Call (312) 443-3600.

BOWEN REUNION

The **Bowen High School Class of 1969** will host a 50th anniversary reunion at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 20, at Harry Caray's, 33 W. Kinzie St. Cost is \$95 per person. There will food, limited open bar, music, a memory book, and other activities. Rooms also have been reserved at the Kinzie Hotel at 20 W. Kinzie St. For information, contact Brett Weiss at bowenclass69@gmail.com or Gary Goodfriend at royal29@sbcglobal.net.



Notre Dame de Chicago Parish welcomed Matthew Gregg (left) and Jacob DiBattista into Full Communion into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 20. Jacob was baptized, confirmed, and received First Eucharist. Matthew was confirmed and received First Eucharist. They are pictured with their sponsors, Colleen Gregg and Susie LaBelle, and Father Kevin Hays, pastor of Notre Dame.

CLEAN AND SOBER STEPPERS

Alderman Walter Burnett hosts the 27th Ward Clean and Sober Steppers Set along with the Salvation Army Freedom Center, 825 N. Christiana Ave., 8 p.m. to midnight every third Friday of the Month: May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, and Oct. 18. Refreshments will be served. Call (312) 432-1995.

CTC FUNDRAISER

Career Transitions Center of Chicago, which helps unemployed professionals get back to work, will hold its annual Passport To Taste fundraiser on Thursday, May 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. at 625 W. Adams St. Jim Boysen and Blanche Roberts will receive the Mimi Letchinger Volunteer Award, and USG Corp. will receive the Legacy Award. Tickets are \$100 each. Email ajenke@ctcchicago.org for more information.

ARTIST GRANTS

The **Chicago Artists Coalition** (CAC) has begun the Spark Microgrant program for artists who are Asian, Latinx, Arab, African, or

Native American or who have a disability or are self-taught. For information, email adia@chicagoartistscoalition.org or call (312) 491-8888, ext. 1004.

CAC is presenting a group exhibition, *The Body Is Work*, by artists Hale Ekinci, Shir Ende, and Mayumi Lake. It runs through Thursday, May 9.

CAC is located at 2130 W. Fulton St.

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.

NURSE CONSORTIUM NEWS

The **Chicago Bilingual Nurse Consortium** helps foreign-educated nurses attain licensure in Illinois.

National Council Licensure Examination predictor tests are available to demonstrate probability of passing the nursing exam.

The organization's website at www.chicagobilingualnurse.org also lists jobs available for nurses. For more information, call (312) 567-2065.

BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

The **Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection** offers free business education workshops every Wednesday and Friday at City Hall. For more information, call (312) 744-2086 or email BACPoutreach@cityofchicago.org.

SOCCER PROGRAMS

Chicago KICS hosts soccer programs at the Mercy Soccer Center at 226 S. Aberdeen St., Chicago Indoor Sports at 3900 S. Ashland Ave., Dunbar Park at 300 E. 31st St., the Second Presbyterian Church Gym at 1936 S. Michigan Ave., and the University of Illinois at Chicago field at 900 W. 14th Pl. Log on to chicagokics.org, call (312) 650-9342, or email info@chicagokics.com.

WOMEN'S PARK NEWS

Chicago Women's Park and Gardens hosts adult, 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.

The park will host a book fair Monday through Friday, May 20

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through 24, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. Find books for families, adults, and children and enjoy a family fun party event the evening of Thursday, May 23.

Park Advisory Council meetings will be held at 6:45 p.m. the Tuesdays of June 11, July 23, Aug. 20, Oct. 8, and Dec. 3.

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

DE LA SALLE NEWS

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

Student Ryan Curington has signed a letter of intent to attend the University of Arkansas-Little Rock in the fall. Curington will compete for the Trojans' men's track and field team.

Students Makenzie Steele and Amaya Utreras were chosen to the 2019 All-Girls Catholic Athletic Conference Team in girls bowling.

Three De La Salle students were chosen to the 2018-19 All-Girls Catholic Athletic Conference Basketball Team: Natalia Trejo, T.K. Howard, and Janiece Dawson.

De La Salle celebrated its 49th annual Bridge Contest in which students in the honors geometry classes build bridges that are tested for strength and durability.



The De La Salle Meteor band finished third in the 39th annual State of the Art Catholic Band Festival.

Winner Cameron Laviste set a new De La Salle record with a bridge that sustained 275 pounds. Placing second was Dinah Ortiz, whose bridge held 255 pounds. Garnering third place was Mateo Strainis, whose bridge withstood 220 pounds.

Longtime De La Salle faculty member Justin Costello-Stebelton was among the honorees receiving the Heart of the Mission Award at the Darst Center's annual Night at the Races event in March. The award goes to an individual or individuals whose grit, determination, and dedication to the Darst Center's mission of justice, peace,

spirituality, and education have allowed the organization to thrive.

Student Amanda Bolden earned the National Center for Women and Information Technology's (NCWIT) Aspirations in Computing Award. The NCWIT honors young women in high school who are active and interested in computing and technology.

The Meteor band finished third in the 39th annual State of the Art Catholic Band Festival held at Brother Rice High School; 39 De La Salle students participated in the festival.

Thirteen students recently competed in a robotics competition

held at the Credit Union 1 Arena on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago: Kyle Brown, Jacquelin Camarena, Zhi Chen, Adam Creighton, Matthew Dixon, Victor DeAvila, Branden Goeden, Enrique Herrera, Cameron Laviste, Joshua Moy, Ashley Naveja, Louis Nuno, and Felicity Sierra.

De La Salle's Louder than a Bomb team advanced to the semifinals held at the Metro in Chicago's Wrigleyville community. Louder than a Bomb is the largest youth poetry slam in the world. Participants were Aolani Cano, Kaia Johnson, Yasmine Simpson, Santiago Tamez, and Ali Brist.

Ten students from the varsity football team announced their collegiate commitments at a ceremony held in the school's Harrison Hall: James Coffey (Highland KS Community College), Noel Gonzalez (Augustana), Jim Guttillo (Wisconsin-Whitewater), Steven Hawthorne (Cincinnati), Adrian Munoz (Augustana), Mateo Portillo (Concordia University-Chicago), Andrew Smith (Millikin), Daniel White (Kentucky Wesleyan), Tyler Williams (Mount Union), and George Witowski (Concordia University Wisconsin).

De La Salle welcomed a relic of St. John Baptist De La Salle to the school on April 1. The Christian Brothers brought the relic to De La Salle as part of its pilgrimage

Continued on page 22



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Around the Neighborhood

DE LA SALLE NEWS

Continued from page 21

through the Midwest; the event featured a procession through the school and short prayer service.

The school recently held a film festival in which students submitted short films they had created. Winner Isaiah Griggs earned the prize for Best Motion Picture after submitting his animation portfolio for Columbia College.

Student Clyde Benton won accolades from several organizations for his performance during the 2018-19 basketball season. Benton was chosen to the 15-player All-Chicago Catholic League Blue First Team while also attaining honorable mention status from the *Chicago Sun-Times* for its All-City Team and from the *Daily Southtown* for its All-Area Team. He also received All-State honorable mention plaudits from the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association. Also lauded this season were senior guard-forward Alex Raiford and junior guard Abnar Muhammad, who earned honorable mentions for the All-Chicago Catholic League Blue Team.



De La Salle bridge builders Mateo Strainis, Cameron Laviste, Dinah Ortiz, and Mark Jackowiak.

The school inducted 16 De La Salle students into the Brother J. Richard Rush Chapter of the National Honor Society: Samantha Brost, Matthew Chavez, Niyah Edmond, MacKenzie Gioia, Isabella LaCoco, Alyssa Luna, Maya McCoy, Jill McManus, Nadiya Muhammad, Aidan Patino, Alicia Plebanski, Felicia Plebanski, Maggie Swanborn, Ethan Verner, Siying Wang, and Shuwen Yang.

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.

church is located at 643 W. 31st St. Call (312) 842-7390.

DUSABLE MUSEUM

The **DuSable Museum of African American History** is free to all every Tuesday. The museum is at 740 E. 56th Pl. Call (773) 947-0600.

GREEK HERITAGE PARADE

The **Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of Illinois** will host the Greek Heritage Parade at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 5, on Halsted Street. For more information, log on to www.enosisgroup.org.

FORTSON CAMP

Fortson Fine Arts Summer Camps provide instruction in music and art. Camp weeks begin the Mondays of July 15, 22, and 29. The center is located at 1550 S. State St. Call (312) 469-0667.

BIKE THE DRIVE

The **Fifth Third Bank Bike the Drive** event will be held Sunday, May 26, and offer five hours of car-free riding along Lake Shore Drive. It will kick off at 5:30 a.m. The course runs between Bryn Mawr Ave. and 57th St. At Butler Field in

Grant Park from 8 a.m. to noon, enjoy a pancake breakfast, post-ride festival with live music, and activities for adults and children. Events are held in conjunction with the Active Transportation Alliance. Register at bikethedrive.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, 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.

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.

GLESSNER HOUSE EVENTS

Glessner House, 1800 S. Prairie Ave., will observe Historic Preservation Month on Saturday, May 11, by partnering with Friends of Historic Second Church on a half-day symposium commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of architect Howard Van Doren Shaw, who designed several landmark buildings in the South Loop. Tickets are \$25. On Thursday, May 30, preservation architect Gunny Harboe will lead attendees on an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the recently restored Unity Temple by Frank Lloyd Wright in Oak Park. Tickets

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 June events should be sent to *Gazette Chicago* in May. The next deadline is May 22 for the June 7 issue.

JANE OF THE JUNGLE

DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre is hosing *Jane of the Jungle*, a play for youngsters about middle school, through Saturday, May 25. Call (312) 922-1999. The theatre is at 60 E. Balbo Dr.

DONATIONS WELCOME

First Trinity Chicago Lutheran Church Community Center welcomes donations of clothing, shoes, and hygiene items. Volunteers accept donations on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon. The

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NEW OFFICERS

The **Grant Park Advisory Council** recently elected officers: Leslie Recht, president; Jim Wales, vice president; Richard Ward, treasurer; and John Talbot, secretary.

GWTP JOB TRAINING

Greater West Town Partnership, 500 N. Sacramento Blvd., offers job placement and training programs in wood products manufacturing and shipping and receiving. Call (312) 563-9570.

SPORTS CAMPS

Hi-Five Sports Camp Chicago offers team sports camps for boys and girls from pre-k through 8th grade. Call (312) 226-6555.

TOUR TIME

Join the hour long **Instagram-greeter** 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.

MEET MADISON

Madison Row's Meet Madison event, organized by the West Central Association Chamber of Commerce, will be held Saturday, May 11, on Madison Street between Halsted Street and Ashland Avenue. For more information, email rod@wcachicago.org or log on to www.wcachicago.org.

WEST SIDE STORY

Lyric Opera of Chicago is presenting *West Side Story* through Monday, June 3. Call (312) 827-5600. Lyric Opera performs at 20 N. Wacker Dr.

JSP JUMP START

JSP Jump Start, 2216 S. Wentworth Ave. and 2301 S. Wentworth Ave., is an academic summer program that reviews and prepares pre-k through 8th grade students in math, reading, and writing. Call (312) 328-1188.

HEALTH FAIR

Second District State Representative **Theresa Mah** recently held her annual health fair, in which volunteer health providers and exhibitors provided free medical/dental screenings as well as health resources to Chinese and Hispanic communities. Members of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry's Pan Asian Student Dental Association were among the volunteers, and some of its members had opportunities to interpret for Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking patients. Mah's office is at 2108 W. 35th St. Call (872) 281-5775.

MARKET NEWS

Maxwell Street Market, Desplaines and Taylor Streets, is open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sundays, year round. It offers many types of merchandise including tools, clothing, furniture, collectables, and food. Parking is free on Desplaines from Harrison to Polk Streets and from Taylor Street to Roosevelt Road.

MCKINLEY PARK NEWS

The **McKinley Park Dog Park** Com-

Continued on page 24



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: 10th Sector Residential Meeting, Thurs., May 9, 400 E. Randolph St., condo building, 6:30 p.m.; 20th Sector Residential Meeting, Wed., May 8, 525 S. State St., University Center, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 131/132, Tues., May 21, 1718 S. State St., 1st District Station, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 133, Wed., May 15, 2901 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Prairie Shores, 6:30 p.m.; 30th Sector Business Meeting, Tues., May 28, 1718 S. State St., 1st District Station, 2 p.m. Call (312) 745-4381.



2nd District: Beat 211, Mon., May 13, 3240 S. Indiana Ave., Illinois College of Optometry, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 212/214, Tues., May 7, 3858 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Mandrake Park Field House, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 213/215/224, Tues., May 28, 4068 S. Michigan Ave., St. Elizabeth Church, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 221/223, Tues., May 21, 4314 S. Cottage Grove Ave., King Center, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 222, Tues., May 14, 4434 S. Lake Park Ave., Kennicott Park, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 225/232, Thurs., May 9, 5627 S. Michigan Ave., Coppin A.M.E. Church, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 212/214, Tues., June 4, 3858 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Mandrake Park Field House, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 231/233/234/235, Thurs., June 6, 5531 S. King Dr., Washington Park, 6:30 p.m. Call (312) 747-8368.



9th District: Beat 912, Wed., May 8, 3625 S. Hoyne Ave., St. Maurice Church Hall, 7 p.m.; Beats 913/915, Tues., May 14, 2859 S. Throop St., St. Barbara Church, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 914, Wed., May 22, 2100 S. Wentworth Ave., Chinatown Library, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 922, Tues., May 28, 2611 W. 48th St., Shields Middle School, 6 p.m.; Beat 923, Tues., May 28, 5157 S. California Ave., St. Simon Church Hall, 7 p.m.; Beat 924, Tues., May 7, 4430 S. Marshfield Ave., Davis Square Park, 6 p.m.; Beat 925, Wed., May 15, 4500 S. Wallace St., St. Gabriel Church, 6 p.m.; Beats 931/933, Thurs., May 9, 1809 W. 50th St., Cornell Square Park, 6 p.m.; Beats 932/934/936, Tues., May 21, 1301 W. 52nd St., Sherman Park, 6 p.m.; Beats 911/921, Wed., June 5, 3050 W. 39th St., Davis School Annex, 7 p.m.; Beat 924, Tues., June 4, 4430 S. Marshfield Ave., Davis Square Park, 6 p.m. Call (312) 747-3501.



10th District: Beat 1012, Tues., May 21, 4339 W. 18th Pl., Montclare, 6 p.m.; Beat 1013, Wed., May 15, 2524 S. Keeler Ave., Epiphany Church, 6 p.m.; Beat 1014, Tues., May 7, 3839 W. Ogden Ave., Laxdale Church, 6 p.m.; Beat 1021, Tues., May 14, 1448 S. Homan Ave., Carey Tercentenary, 6 p.m.; Beat 1033, Thurs., May 9, 2311 S. Kedzie Ave., Little Village Library, 6 p.m.; Beat 1022, Thurs., June 6, 3030 W. 21st Pl., Albany Terrace, 6 p.m.; Beat 1034, Tues., June 4, 2700 S. Western Ave., YMCA-Rauner, 6 p.m. Call (312) 747-7190.



12th District: Beats 1213/1214/1215, Wed., May 15, 1615 W. Chicago Ave., Goldblatt's Building, 7 p.m.; Beat 1221, Wed., May 8, 2526 W. Grand Ave., Smith Park, 7 p.m.; Beats 1222/1223, Wed., May 22, 1939 W. Lake St., Westhaven Community Room, 7 p.m.; Beats 1211/1212, Wed., June 5, 2347 W. Augusta Blvd., St. Helen's Church basement, 7 p.m. Call (312) 746-8306.

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

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Around the Neighborhood

MCKINLEY PARK NEWS

Continued from page 23

mittee meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the McKinley Park Fieldhouse. Email mckinleydogpark@gmail.com.

The park is at 37th Street and Archer Avenue.

ENERGY FUTURE

The Metropolitan Planning Council will host Reinventing Fire: Changing Our Energy Future on Thursday, May 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. at 140 S. Dearborn St., Suite 1400. Climate scientist Amory Lovins will address the shift from fossil fuels to renewables and energy efficiency. Cost is \$15.

The MPC will host a lunchtime Transportation Demand Management roundtable on commuting in the Chicago region on Friday, May 31.

Call (312) 922-5616.

MOUNT CARMEL ARTISTS

Organizers of the 2019 My Chicago Art Contest chose 11 Mount Carmel High School to display their artwork at McCormick Place during the National Catholic Educational Association 2019 Convention and Expo, April 23 through 25: Jack Slade, Ryan Rinearson, Abdel Raoul, Michael McKenna, Nico Padilla, Dan Benoit, Charlie Chappetto, Luke Pappas, Ameen Morgan, Tony Ruiz, and Morgan Sanders. Mount Carmel is located at 6410 S. Dante Ave. Log on to www.mchs.org.

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,



Dental student Lily Lou from the UIC College of Dentistry, teaching a youngster how to brush her teeth at State Representative Theresa Mah's health fair.

are published on cookcountytreasurer.com. Call (312) 603-6262 for more information.

FISHING CLASSES

Northerly Island Park will host family fishing classes for participants age eight and older on the Saturdays of May 4, 11, and 18; June 1, 8, 15, and 22; and August 17 and 14 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The park is at 1521 S. Linn White Dr. Call (312) 745-2910.

MEET THE TEACHER

St. Jerome School will hold a meet the teacher night on Tuesday, May 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. St. Jerome is located at 2801 S. Princeton Ave. For more information or to arrange a private tour, visit the website at stjromeschool.net or call (312) 842-7668.

RUSH GENERATIONS

Rush Generations, a health and aging program, offers classes, screenings, and programs for older adults and caregivers. Take Charge of Your Diabetes, a free six-week workshop designed to help people manage Type 2 diabetes and overall health, takes place on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., May

21 through June 25. On Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m., May 9 through June 13, Rush Generations will offer gentle yoga, which costs \$30 total for all six classes. The pharmacy team at Rush will perform free, 15-minute medication screenings on Wednesday, May 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. All programs take place on the Rush University Medical Center campus. To reserve spots or for more information, call (888) 352-RUSH (7874).

HOLY HAPPY HOUR

The St. John Paul II Newman Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago will host Holy Happy Hour Monday, May 20, 5:15 to 8:15 p.m. at Lagunitas Brewing Co., 2607 W. 17th St. There will be a \$10 cover charge, cash bar, pizza, and live music. Proceeds support the center, located at 700 S. Morgan St. Call (312) 226-1880 or log on to <https://jp2newman.org>.

SHRINE NEWS

The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii is selling paver bricks for its Garden of Remembrance. Engrave the name of your family or a loved one for \$250. Call (312) 421-3757 or email mlp@ourladyofpompeii.org. The shrine is located at 1224 W. Lexington St.

SEAN PHILLIPS SOCCER

Sean Phillips Soccer at the University of Illinois at Chicago offers a day camp for boys and girls ages four through 14. Call (312) 848-6160 or log on to www.seanphillipsoccer.com.

SAY SOCCER

Soccer Association for Youth of Chicago is hosting a summer soccer league. Email info@sayofchicago.com or log on to www.sayofchicago.com.

SOUTH LOOP ENTREPRENEURS

South Loop Entrepreneurs meets the second Tuesday of the month. Each evening features a presentation by a South Loop entrepreneur, followed by breakouts in smaller groups to consider questions and full group sharing to benefit from collective wisdom. For more information, follow South Loop Entrepreneurs on Facebook.

SLN NEWS

South Loop Neighbors will convene a condo presidents roundtable Thursday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. at 899 S. Plymouth Ct.

The organization will host An Evening at the Jazz Showcase, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 15, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. <https://squareup.com/store/south-loop-neighbors/>.

A yard sale will be held in Dearborn Park at 9th Street and Plymouth Curt on Saturday, June 8, at 9 a.m. For information, email yard-sale@southloopneighbors.org.

Log on to <https://www.southloopneighbors.org/>.

ST. PETER'S GALA

St. Peter's Church Chicago's fifth annual gala will be held Thursday, July 18, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Union League Club, 65 W.

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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.

LAURIDSEN

Taylor-Lauridsen Park, 704 W. 42nd St., seeks new members for the pinochle club, which meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. New or experienced players welcome.

For more information, call the park at (312) 747-6729.

SHRINE NEWS

The **Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii** will host a May crowning on Sunday, May 5, at the 11 a.m. Eucharistic liturgy. Anointing of the sick will be performed on Sunday, May 19, at 8:30 a.m. Moving on With Grace, a spiritual journey for men and women grieving the death of a spouse, will be held Saturday, June 1, at 9 a.m. Cost is \$25. La Festa della Repubblica Italiana will be

held Sunday, June 2, at the 11 a.m. Mass. The Filipino Community Pilgrimage will be held Sunday, June 30, at the 11 a.m. Mass.

The Shrine is at 1224 W. Lexington St. Call (312) 421-3757 or log on to www.ourladyofpompeii.org.

PINOCHLE CLUB AT TAYLOR-TRAUMA HELPLINE

The toll-free **TURN Trauma Counseling Helpline**, (833) TURN123, operates from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. TURN stands for The Urban Resilience Network, and the helpline assists those experiencing trauma caused by exposure to violence. The organization also provides trained ambassadors to visit community events and schools to educate about trauma.

UIMA NEWS

Photographs by Brendan Hoffman are on display in the exhibit Brotherland: War in Ukraine at the **Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art** through Sunday, June 2. UIMA is at 2320 W. Chicago Ave. Call (773) 227-5522 or log on to www.uima-chicago.org.

UIC INFO

The **University of Illinois at Chicago** has created the Tamara O'Neal Scholarship Fund to benefit first-year



Photo by Mercedes Kaltenecker, Crimson Butterfly Photography

Maria Angelica "Angie" Santana and Joe Celia of the Tri-Taylor community have announced their engagement. They have been together since 2014, and Joe proposed on Valentine's Day of this year. Angie has three adult children, Mylo, Nicholas, and Vicente Carter, all of whom graduated from De La Salle Institute. Vicente is a Children of Peace alumnus.

medical students in UIC's Urban Health Program. O'Neal was a 2014 UIC College of Medicine graduate and 2017 emergency medicine resident graduate. She was killed in a shooting at Mercy Hospital in November. Call (312) 413-3440.

White individuals disproportionately affect the environment

through their eating habits by eating more foods that require more water and release more greenhouse gases through their production compared to foods Black and Latino individuals eat, according to a new report published in the *Journal of Industrial Ecology*. "The food pipeline—which includes its production, distribution, and waste—contributes significantly to climate change through the production of greenhouse gases and requires significant amounts of water and land, which also has environmental effects," said Joe Bozeman, a student in the UIC Institute for Environmental Science and Policy and first author on the paper.

UIC held its Impact and Research Day on April 10, in which students from across the campus in a wide range of academic fields displayed their research.

BOULEVARD GALA

The **Boulevard**, which helps the homeless restore their health, will hold its 25th anniversary gala on Friday, May 31, at 6 p.m. in the Winter Garden at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St. The Reva and David Logan Foundation will be honored. There will be dinner, a program, and dancing. Tickets are \$275 each. Call (773) 533-6013 or log on to www.blvd.org.

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Editorial

Mayor Lightfoot has great opportunity to improve on plans for Joint Public Safety Training Center

Mayor Lightfoot has great opportunity to improve on plans for Joint Public Safety Training Center

Both proponents and opponents of the City's Joint Public Safety Training Center in the West Garfield Park community, in which recruits for police, firefighters, and paramedics will be trained, make some valid points in the controversy over the new facilities.

Such facilities truly are needed. Not only are current facilities for police and fire trainees cramped and outdated, but much more importantly, the limits of training capabilities in those facilities contribute to problems that even the U.S. Department of Justice has said result in racial bias, excessive use of force by police, and violations of constitutional rights. If a new facility will allow for more modern training that will help eliminate these problems, we are all for it.

We realize that the estimated price tag of \$95 million is a very large investment, and many opponents of the Joint Public Safety Training Center argue that the resources would be better served for resources in under-funded communities for mental health, education, job training and development, etc. These are all very valid arguments, but the loss of life on the streets of Chicago due to inadequate police training, and the millions of dollars in lawsuits that follow, harm us in ways far more costly. The truth is, one cannot put a price on a human life.

The new facilities will allow for training more police and therefore put more police on the streets, which is impossible with the current Police Academy in the West Loop. They also will allow for continuing training, so professionals on the job will be able to have a place to come back to learn the latest methods and innovations, such as crisis intervention training that can help de-escalate a situation before it reaches a danger point.

As the Rev. Ralph Tolbert has pointed out, unnecessary shootings such as those in the cases of Quintonio LeGrier and Bettie Jones could have been avoided had police officers received the modern, community-centered type of training a new facility could provide.

Training together also will lead to better cooperation between the three types of public safety professionals once they are on the job.

The City chose to build the facility not in a well-to-do or gentrifying part of town, but on long-vacant property in an area that could sorely use economic development. Both construction of facilities and their operation once built are expected to bring jobs and activity to the area.

Economic development is desirable, but it seems the City is talking only about restaurants and retail to accommodate trainees and staff in conjunction with the new facilities.

As West Garfield Park resident Brianna Hampton said in a public meeting, let's not just be satisfied with job training that puts local residents waiting tables or working a cash register. Let's have real job training preparing West Siders for downtown jobs.

How about a real economic development plan that includes new and expanded social service facilities in the area so the City's social service professionals can receive continuing training in the latest methodologies, while those who need the City's social services can go to clean, modern facilities instead of older social service facilities that are just as cramped and outdated as current police and firefighter training facilities?

Also, instead of just planning restaurants, how about an actual food store to eliminate the West Side food desert while providing more job opportunities and making the West Side a destination for shopping? What about culinary training for area residents to gain the skill sets needed to work in as chefs someday?

Along these lines, while we disagree with the #NoCopAcademy group, whose members generally want no new Joint Public Safety Training facility at all, we do agree with their call "for meaningful investment that transforms the community and meets human needs."

One thing all can agree on is that, in typical Chicago fashion, clout appears to be a factor in the construction of the new facility. Despite all the excellent architects and developers in Chicago, the City, under Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the City Council, went all the way to Los Angeles to pick Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations, and Maintenance (AECOM) Corp., which has a history of cost overruns and had to stop construction on a Detroit municipal project because of alleged corruption. The current Chicago Fleet Management commissioner, David Reynolds, is a former AECOM vice president. As usual, clout reigns supreme in the awarding of City business.

With reform Mayor Lori Lightfoot about to take office this month, the City has a golden opportunity to fix what is wrong with this project. She should build it, but do more than expect restaurants and retail connected with it to revitalize the West Side. Instead, the new mayor should add social services, job training, and a supermarket to induce real change.



Mayor Lightfoot also needs to take a hard look at the AECOM deal. Throw this company out of the mix, and give the business to a Chicago firm that will promise to use local architects, local construction workers, and create local jobs.

If the Joint Public Safety Training Center results in better-trained safety personnel, more social services, economic revitalization, and more jobs, then everyone would win and clout-heavy politicians and other influencers would lose. Wouldn't that be a refreshing change and a great first accomplishment for the Lightfoot Administration?

We welcome your feedback on this critical issue. Write to us at info@gazettechicago.com.

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Update

Starbucks plans draw opposition, support in Bridgeport

Continued from page 19
community input?" was 37.07 on a scale of one-to-100, with one indicating completely dissatisfied and 100 indicating completely satisfied.

"We are trying to put pressure on the City and the development to see if we can get changes made," Tong said.

The development has no start date yet, said developer Josh Glazier. He said he could not comment further until he had an opportunity to discuss details with executives at Starbucks.

Another alliance member, Kate Lowe, is an assistant professor at the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She noted the community would have preferred more public discussions prior to the development approval. Also, she said restrictions outlined by the City's Department of Planning and Development for the second phase commercial building space, which will range from 1,900 to 2,200 square feet, raises concerns. The project will permit businesses such as casual restaurants, grocery stores, pet stores, wellness clinics, and professional services. For the first 10 years of use, however, it prohibits fast food restaurants, mattress stores, spas, massage parlors, salons, and tattoo parlors.

"Prohibiting those businesses is problematic because many of those types of businesses are established by local entrepreneurs, people of color," Lowe said.

Eleventh Ward Alderman Patrick D. Thompson was not available before deadline to answer questions regarding the alliance's concerns. Kelly Fitzpatrick, his spokesperson, said Thompson held a public meeting to address area development and has advocated bringing in new business to fill empty storefronts.

In an interview with *Gazette Chicago* earlier this year, Thompson pointed to the Starbucks

project as a sign of positive change, noting most developments have both support and opposition.

"I don't think there's a lot of objections to this project," he said at the time. "That corner has been vacant for 12 years" or more.

Thompson said the developer is complying with the City's storm-water management requirements. "There will be a positive economic impact to that entire area," he said. "A business like this can increase sales along the street."

Fitzpatrick noted support from Bridgeport business owners, such as Ed Marszewski of nearby Marz Community Brewing Company.

Local resident Alison Mizera told *Gazette Chicago* the new Starbucks and associated development will be a plus because it provides diversity of options.

"The fact is that a Starbucks coffee drinker is going to Starbucks," Mizera said. "For me, I go to a Starbucks in the morning because I like it. But I also like the frozen coffee at Jackalope," an independent coffee and tea house near 32nd and Halsted Streets. "In the big scheme of things, it's just coffee."

Regarding possible congestion, Mizera said, "every Chicago neighborhood experiences that. It's part of living in a city."

Even if opposition efforts fail, Bridgeport Alliance members Gallagher, Tong, and Lowe said they hoped the City and Alderman Thompson will be open to holding more public meetings for future projects.

"We want the community to have a voice at public hearings about developments that are being planned in the future," Tong said. "Maybe this will set the stage for that."

For more on Bridgeport Alliance, log on to <http://bridgeportalliance.blogspot.com/>. To contact Thompson's office, call (773) 254-6677.

—Rick Romano

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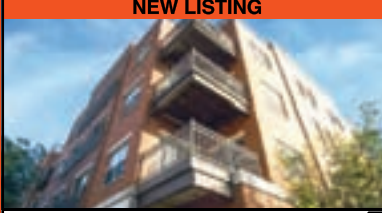
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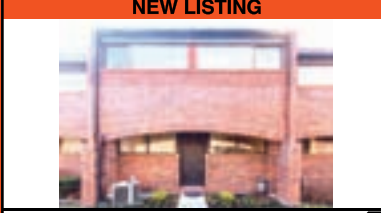


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NEW LISTING



841 S. RACINE AVE-UNIT D
 GORGEOUS Little Italy 2 Bed/1.5 Bath Townhome Steps to Taylor Street, Sheridan Park, Arrington and UIC. Solid Oak Wide Plank HW Floors Thruout. Stunning Kit w/Full Line of SS Apps, Granite Counters & Sleek White Cabinetry. HUGE Master Bed Rooms Each Have 2 Closets. Full BSMT w/High Ceilings & Full Sized W/D. Recessed Can Lighting. Open Space Off Living Room. Includes 1-Assigned Parking Space. Giant Attic for Storage OR Potential to finish as Living Space. Ideally Situated Home in Quiet Interior of Garden Courts Townhome Complex. Completely Removed from the Street.

CONTRACT PENDING

\$389,000



618 S. LAFLIN STREET (G)
 ONE-OF-A-KIND 3 BEDROOM/3.5 BATH TOWNHOUSE 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.

\$599,000



1337 W. FLOURNOY #2R
 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.

\$219,500



832 S. LAFLIN STREET
 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.

\$559,000




1613 W. GRAND AVENUE-UNIT #1
 GORGEOUS-GIANT 3 BEDROOM/3 FULL BATH DUPLEX 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!!

\$419,000



1645 W. OGDEN AVENUE-UNIT 411
 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/Rush 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.

\$349,000



1132 W. TAYLOR STREET
 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 Greystone 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 OPPORTUNITY!!

\$1,200,000



913 S. ABERDEEN
 TWO UNIT VICTORIAN APARTMENT BUILDING Located in the Little Italy/University Village Area. Steps across the Street From Sheridan Park and Steps to Taylor Street. Property Requires Extensive Repairs and Will Be Sold in "AS IS" Condition. Can be Converted into a Single Family Home OR Torn Down & Build an Apartment Building OR Single Family Home. Walking Distance to University of Illinois and Medical District.

CONTRACT PENDING

\$379,000



820 S. LAFLIN STREET
 FOUR BEDROOM TOWNHOME Located in Little Italy/ University Village Area in Campus Green Complex. Features Include: HW Floors, Master Bedroom w/ Master Bath, Eat-in Kit w/Full Line of Apps, Laundry/ Utility Room w/ Full Sized W/D, Granite Dining Room, Balcony, Large Family Room w/ Private Gated Patio and Off-Street Parking. Walking Distance to University of Illinois & Med Center. Easy Expressway Accessibility. Just Minutes to Downtown Business, Theater District and Lakefront.

CONTRACT PENDING

\$479,000

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