

# INSIDE



Homemade wine making starts with a trip to Sante Fe Grape Distributors in Bridgeport. See page 2.



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Shrine of our Lady of Pompeii Festa livens up Arrigo Park. See Around the Neighborhood, beginning on page 18.

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University of Illinois at Chicago moves up in national rankings. See page 23.

Lisa Deborah Oi named new principal at St. Therese's Chinese Catholic School. See page 26.

# **City's \$1.4 billion in TIF accounts draws concern of CivicLab, local communities**

#### By Madeline Makoul

With more than \$1.4 billion sitting in the City's TIF (tax increment financing) accounts, community groups across Chicago are questioning these stockpiled funds, asking officials to offer more transparency and dedicate funds to areas that need them most.

CivicLab and the TIF Illumination Project recently announced their analysis reveals \$1,439,903,731 is sitting in TIF accounts. This money comes from property taxes collected in 145 districts, and leaders originally intended it would help development and construction in blighted areas in hopes of spurring economic development, said Tom Tresser, co-founder of CivicLab. As community advocates explained, however, this process has not gone according to plan, with TIF money often going to development in affluent areas of Chicago.

"TIFs are really a big part of this tale of two cities that we have been

seeing in the City for a long time one that is taking resources away from neighborhoods, especially black and brown communities, and moving that to developers for things like luxury condos and stadiums," Nathan Ryan, director of communications at Grassroots Collaborative, said. "It's actually hurting the quality of life of the folks in our communities."

Collecting almost \$500 million a year, TIFs have the potential *Continued on page 8* 

# New Tri-Taylor group forms after crime wave

#### By Nathan Worcester

Residents of the Tri-Taylor neighborhood have formed a neighborhood watch organization. They also started a Facebook group for the organization, Tri-Taylor Neighborhood Watch, on August 14 that now has more than 120 members.

"The idea of having a neighborhood watch group and reviving the old one from years ago was something that I have been thinking about doing for the last couple of years," said Michael Ramstedt, *Continued on page 16* 



MEDICAL EDUCATION AT MALCOLM X—Students learn various stateof-the-science medical techniques by practicing on mannequins in healthcare education programs at Malcolm X College. See article, page 6.

# Wisconsin Foxconn plant pollution potential prompts resolutions, lawsuit

#### By Igor Studenkov

More pollution may be coming to Illinois from Wisconsin, and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan joined by the City of Chicago, has filed a lawsuit to stop it.

Robert Kaplan, who then served as acting regional administrator for the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 5, which includes Illinois and other states within the Great Lakes region, on Dec. 20, 2017, wrote a letter informing Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker that Kaplan's agency intended to give Wisconsin's Racine County the "non-attainment" designation for not meeting air quality standards.

Taipei, Taiwan-based Foxconn Technology Group plans to build its new manufacturing and technology campus in Racine County. While the EPA non-attainment designation would not have prevented Foxconn from building the facility, it would have required the company to install more stringent and thus more expensive air pollution controls. According to the letter, the State of Wisconsin recommended the county get the "attainment" designation, which permits less stringent pollution controls; based on air quality data, the EPA decided against it.

When the EPA released the list of designations on April 30, 2018, however, Racine County did not appear on it. The original *Continued on page 10* 

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## Santa Fe Grape Distributors have long history of assisting local winemakers

#### By Marie Balice-Ward

Residents who enjoy making their own wine can count on Santa Fe Grape Distributors to help. The company, at 3500 S. Racine Ave., offers grapes and grape juice during the distribution season that runs from Monday, Sept. 10, through Monday, Oct. 15.

The late Paul Alleruzzo founded Santa Fe Grape. His son-in-law, Dennis Karas, now owns the company, and Mario Coglianese, who retired as a general foreman for the City of Chicago after 35 years of service, runs the business side serving as manager and handling sales. Five other staff members come on board during the grape and grape juice season.

Since the 1980s, Coglianese has helped innumerable homemade wine hobbyists by providing grapes, grape juice, wine presses, plastic pails, grinders, barrels, jugs, corks, and other equipment and devices essential to making fine homemade wine.

On Sept. 10, 20,000 cases of grapes and 5,000 oversized containers of grape juice for winemaking will arrive at Santa Fe Grape Distributors from Napa Valley, CA. The company sells grapes from \$35 to \$40 per case, and it measures and sells the juice accordingly.

The homemade wine making season lasts from early September through mid-October because "that's when the grapes are at their sweetest," explained Coglianese. At that time, people from throughout Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin flock to Santa Fe Grape Distributors, "the largest in the Midwest."

Cleanliness is key to making a good wine, he said. Makers must clean all equipment thoroughly, including barrels, which they must disassemble each year for maximum cleanliness.

Coglianese noted homemade wine is not meant for aging. "It has a one-year lifespan," he said.

Santa Fe Wine Distributors became involved with Napa Valley growers through a friendship that evolved many years ago between Alleruzzo and the Gallo and Mondavi families of Napa.

"There's no middle man at Santa Fe Grape Distributors," said Coglianese. "Our grapes come directly from the Napa Valley area of California by trucks." Vineyards that supply grapes and grape juice



Coglianese in earlier days discussing the art or winemaking with Santa Fe Grape Distributors founder Paul Alleruzzo.



Photo by Christopher Valentino

Mario Coglianese (at left), taking a break between helping customers at Santa Fe Grape Distributors along with Rich Karas Jr. (middle), and business partner Rich Karas Sr. Not pictured is business partner Dennis Karas.

are located in Lodi, Fresno, Delano, Sonoma, Modesto, Kingsburg, and Bakersfield, CA.

In the past, grapes came via the Santa Fe Railroad, hence the name Santa Fe Grape Distributors. The company originally was located near the rail yard at Ashland Avenue and Princeton Street. It then relocated to the Chicago Produce Terminal at 27th Street and Ashland Avenue, later moving to its current location.

"Santa Fe Grape Distributors is great," said Michael Biasiello, a Park Ridge dentist. "I have been purchasing grapes there for 15 years and my father did before me. The staff there is very helpful. They let us go up into the refrigerated cars that are marked by type of grape and taste the grapes then they put them into our vehicle."

Santa Fe Grape Distributors offers more than 15 types of grapes and more than 20 types of grape juice. The juice primarily comes from Regina of California. Cabernet sauvignon, merlot, zinfandel, pinot grigio, chardonnay, riesling, muscato, and rose are some of the choices.

Coglianese explained that grape

juice for winemaking is gaining in popularity. Currently, the ratio of fresh grapes to grape juice purchases hovers at 75% to 25%. "Grape juice does make it easier to make homemade wine," Coglianese explained.

The grape juice sold by Santa Fe Grape Distributors contains no added sugar, water, or yeast, Coglianese added.

To reach the company, call (773) 376-7505 or fax (773) 376-7684.

How to make wine at home

Dissolve sugar in filtered water and add to crushed grapes (called must) or grape juice. Pour one pack of yeast into two to three ounces of water heated to between 104 and 109 degrees F. Do not stir and let sit for 15 minutes only. Then stir to suspend yeast and add to must. Note that you can use bread yeast, but your wine might taste like cider. Wine yeast is recommended. It takes three to four months to be ready to serve. Recipes also are available online by typing "homemade wine recipes" into a search engine.





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# Eric Pulia works to better Tri-Taylor in variety of ways

#### **By Robert Kingett**

The Tri-Taylor community has a host of residents and business owners ready and willing to do whatever they can to keep the area thriving. One of these is Eric Anthony Pulia, a 30- year-old University of Illinois at Chicago graduate, police officer, Illinois Army National Guard member, and 28th Ward Republican Committeeman.

Pulia also has served as a board member of the Tri-Taylor Community Association, which hosts regular meetings throughout the year to plan initiatives such as their annual Clean and Green community beautification event. The association also works on issues brought to its attention by residents or Alderman Jason Ervin's 28th Ward office.

"I wanted to be a board member because I believe that, in order for communities to be truly successful, people have to take ownership of them and be in-volved and invested," Pulia said. "This was my way to putting forward whatever talents I have to good use for the betterment of my community."

The most pressing issues facing the community are "area beau-tification and crime," he said. Concerning beautification, he



Eric Pulia (third from left) with fellow Chicago Police of cers. His role with the police allows him to fight crime in the Tri-Taylor area.

said, "I like to start small and solve things that can actually have a simple solution. In certain parts of the neighborhood we have a serious litter problem and vacant lots that would benefit from development. I usually walk around my neighborhood around two to three hours a week and pick up litter and debris that ignorant people, who most of the time do not even live here and are just walking/driving through, so carelessly throw on the ground.

We also are not so unique that we are immune from the incredible uptick in crime that has affected the entire city since 2016,

but overall we are a fairly safe area considering our geographic location," he added.

#### Government and police

Pulia always had an interest in government, earning his Master of Public Administration degree from UIC in 2017. He has been a police officer since December 2012.

"I wanted to become a police officer because most everyone in my family is or was in law enforcement including my dad, brother, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, and two cousins," Pulia said. "They seemed to enjoy the work,

and it seemed rewarding most importantly. It comes from an overall sense of duty and commitment to serve more than anything.

"When I went through the academy, there were two former Marines who acted as sort of drill instructors," he recalled. "What stuck with me when I initially went through the academy is that things can go wrong very quickly in any police situation, no matter how routine it may seem. It kind of hardens you a little and makes you hyper vigilant of your surroundings at all times.'

A great partner dynamic or a supervisor who makes the challenges worthwhile is what Pulia enjoys about police work. He noted that the "partner moments" make the job easy and, at times, hilarious

"My partner and I complement each other well," Pulia said. "He worked as a police officer in the Philippines before coming to Chicago and worked as a correctional officer in Cook County jail prior to CPD. You need a partner who can enhance your good character traits and help control your temper at stressful times. A lot of people say we remind them of Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan in the movie Rush Hour."

Continued on page 4





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# Eric Pulia works to better Tri-Taylor in variety of ways

#### Continued from page 3

He recalled rushing to a crime "in progress" call during the midnight shift when, on the radio, the song Don't You (Forget About Me) by Simple Minds came on. "Even during this intense crazy situation while we were driving to an in progress call, shouting out directions, I noticed that both of us were singing along to the song," Pulia said. "We both looked at each other and immediately started laughing uncontrollably. It's the silly, stupid things on this job that make you laugh. You need to have that or the rough times will eat you alive."

#### Long hours

Particularly hard parts are the long hours and keeping connections alive. "I have lost touch with a lot of people over the years due to the demanding schedule and working odd hours which make you miss weekends and holidays,' Pulia said. "It is also hard that a lot of the public at least nowadays doesn't seem to support the police as they did before. The public is so quick to judge situations that occur in the blink of an eye and often do not even know the full context or background of a police action which may seem textbook to us, but controversial to the public.'

Most important to police work is trusting your partner and remaining calm, Pulia said, noting, "Often times there is a lot of yelling and commotion on certain calls, and calming everyone down and figuring out what is occurring are challenging at times. I just learned to rely on my partners and other co-workers to assist when I am feeling overwhelmed and need to take a deep breath."

One of the biggest challenges in fighting crime "is that our community spans two police districts" he said. "Once a potential offender or problem such as a gang conflict crosses Western Avenue [the border between districts], it can be difficult to coordinate. We suffer like most Chicago neighborhoods from crimes such as burglaries and robberies, and we are just as frustrated as the rest of the city with a lack of stiff prosecutions of these crimes from the Cook County State's Attorney Office when these people are caught and the judges who hand out lenient sentences, which invite more of this behavior.

"I know many community members who have obtained their concealed carry permits due to the lack of security they have felt, and I honestly cannot blame them," Pulia added. "I also know



*Eric Pulia, besides being an activist in the Tri-Taylor community, is a member of the Illinois National Guard.* 

many who have installed security cameras on their homes."

Pulia noted that community members "are excited about the new Gateway 2020 project that is coming soon to Harrison and Ogden, which should bring an economic boom to our area, as well as the redevelopment of the former Cook County Hospital, which will undoubtedly have an impact on our area in terms of housing development and economic development."

#### National Guard Training

Pulia also finds his Army Na-

tional Guard training helps give him the mental fortitude to be a community activist. His joining the guard "started off as a conversation with a co-worker who was considering joining. I had always wanted to join the military but for one reason or another never pulled the trigger, so to speak. I met with a recruiter and went through the long process of getting medically cleared and taking the entrance exam. I was in my last semester of graduate school when I was accepted to attend Army basic training and advanced individual training. It is a long process but well worth it.

"The training can be long, grueling days with little sleep." Pulia explained. "It teaches you discipline and how to push through no matter how tired or exhausted you are. Before you join the Army you never really know how far you can push yourself, and it definitely teaches you to go above and beyond what you thought was possible.

"What stuck with me after joining the military is that you must always be disciplined and place the mission first," he said. "I also took away that America has some of the most patriotic and amazing young citizens who want to serve *Continued on page 9* 







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# Malcolm X College continues to boost health sciences

#### **By Peter Winslow**

Since its official opening on Jan. 7, 2016, the new Malcolm X College building continues to provide myriad resources to surrounding communities and to prospective and current students across Chicago.

Malcolm X College offers twoyear associate degree and certificate programs with courses in education, information technology, natural sciences, dental hygiene, and other programs. The college has won recognition most often, however, for its School of Health Sciences, which prepares students for the burgeoning heath care industry in the Illinois Medical District and beyond.

David A. Sanders, Malcolm X's president, said of the college's impact, "We've seen the graduation rate go from 7% in 2015 to now 24% in 2018."

When asked what his goal was for Malcolm X's graduation rate over the next five years, Sanders did not provide a specific number. Instead, he referenced the importance of being attune with the needs of a constantly changing student enrollment population. "Our goal is to continue that trend of increasing our graduation rate and we have assessments and evaluations that we do on an every-semester basis to determine what issues students are having," said Sanders. Sanders attributes the positive graduation trajectory to the college's refreshed resources as well as those intensive evaluations and assessments he and his team perform each semester. But he hopes to achieve more and address problems facing his students in the coming years.

"We realized in order to impact students we needed to address the rates of recidivism," Sanders explained. "Why are students leaving before completing their programs? One of the things we found in research was a lot of socioeconomic factors were impacting our students prior to them completing the programs. We need to get them to completion quicker and faster."

Myrna Avila, a first-generation college student and vice president of the student government association, shared high praise about the diversification of Malcolm X's resources and academic support systems. She said Malcolm X "does a good job categorizing and sorting out the courses for you. They say that these are the courses you need to take and they are very familiar with major universities in the area and out of the area."

When asked what advice she would give to prospective students, Avila said, "As long as you put in the work, there is no doubt that there are resources here to help you figure it out."



Students learning in the new Malcolm X College School of Health Sciences facilities.



A new building has allowed Malcolm X College to add programs.

#### New programs

While still providing traditional two-year associate degree and certificate curricula, the college now offers single term certificate programs that students can complete in only 16 weeks.

Malcolm X has added or updated certificate programs in community health, medical billing, medical coding, nursing, phlebotomy, and patient care. Recently, the college's nursing program earned accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and produced a high student pass volume and pass rate. In 2016, City Colleges of Chicago consolidated multiple nursing programs and centered them at Malcolm X's updated campus.

While Malcolm X rotates classes of health science and nursing students through clinical training programs in Chicago area hospitals, the reinvigorated facility provides state of the science clinical and emergency labs, said Nancy Kipnis, an assistant professor of nursing at Malcolm X.

"On the fifth floor, we have more than an adequate number of what we call skills labs," Kipnis said. "They mirror a patient's room," she said. "They have the beds, mannequins, oxygen equipment, and supply cabinets, and we have that for the students. These labs allow for students to hone skills necessary to be professionals in an environment that is great for active learning," she added.

In addition to skills labs, the Malcolm X facility holds a fully equipped simulation hospital on the eighth floor. "We can simulate a woman giving birth, heart attacks, pediatric patients, and adult patients, and we can actually simulate a patient situation—the patient's vital signs are changing and the condition is changing," Kipnis said. The in-house hospital simulator replicates environments such as emergency room and triage centers with the hopes of giving students a range of situational learning experiences to better prepare them for future experiences in their careers.

#### Learning optimized

When asked why these simulators were so valuable to students' education, Kipnis said, "Their learning is optimized through those simulations. They act out. They simulate what they would actually do, which is very dynamic active learning and, at the end of the day, it helps us promote patient safety first, our primary goal."

Nicholas Haubach, chief human resources officer at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System (UI Health), said students on clinical rotations might not be exposed to the innumerable issues and complications they may face during their careers. Clinical



training programs only allot a certain number of credit hours for students to advance their in-field skills, so the Malcolm X program provides invaluable training.

"It is one thing to read about something and another to have human-like mannequins in a simulated real-life event," Haubach said. "Having something like that is truly beneficial."

"We were very pleased to hear of the facility and program expansions at Malcolm X College,' said West Loop Community Organization director Carla Agostinelli. "The programs are relevant to the needs of the community, as the college is located blocks from the Illinois Medical District. We are hopeful to see more graduates placed at Rush, Stroger, and University of Illinois at Chicago."

Among Illinois community colleges, Malcolm X and the City Colleges of Chicago collectively in 2017 had the largest number of students pass the National Council Licensure Examination and associate's degree in nursing exams. The pass rate for students in the nursing program stands at 94%, and other "health science programs are at a 90% pass rate or better," Sanders added.

Alderman Walter Burnett Jr. (27th Ward) also has praised the college's achievements. "The Medical District is the largest district employing individuals in Illinois," said Burnett. "As baby boomers are beginning to retire, there are a lot of vacancies opening for students.'

Malcolm X, along with many other of the City Colleges of Chicago, works with area high schools to open pathways for students who otherwise would not have sought a post secondary education. For graduating Chicago Public School students, "We have a Star Scholarship program that offers students the opportunity to go to school free of charge as long as they carry a 3.0 grade point average and a 17 ACT score," said Sanders.

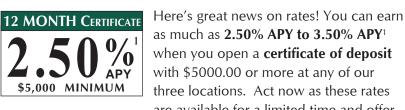
Tuition rates for students at Malcolm X vary based on whether an individual lives within the College's district or holds residency in Illinois. For more information, log on to http://www.ccc.edu/ colleges/malcolm-x.



Students learn various medical techniques by practicing on mannequins at Malcolm X College.

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# *City's \$1.4 billion in TIF accounts draws CivicLab, community concern*

Continued from page 1

to change the communities that need it most, yet officials do not allocate them in a way that benefits the areas they were designed to help, Ryan said. In light of TIFs' continued misuse and lack of transparency, multiple community organizations across Chicago are asking for change.

#### **Call for transparency**

So where is the \$1.4 billion going? According to Tresser, when he asked the City's Department of Planning and Development and the Office of Budget and Management, representatives told him many funds are "committed" to projects. At the same time, he learned some of these committed funds are "confidential and under discussion." As Tresser explained, money cannot be both committed and still under discussion, calling into question these funds' exact status.

According to a statement from Kristin Cabanban, a public relations and communications spokesperson for the City of Chicago, 90% of TIF funds "were committed or have been committed to neighborhood projects." Cabanban said the high amount of money in TIF accounts stems from the need for "significant investments upfront" with large projects that require the balance to build up over time.

Advocates like Tresser remain unconvinced.

"The TIFs are just a giant slush fund covering a lot of things that have nothing to do with blighted communities or economic development," he said. "It's a very fudgeable, elastic fund that responds to the mayor and his allies at their whim."

Mayoral candidate Troy LaRaviere expressed similar concerns over TIF secrecy. With TIF accounts pulling in close to half a billion in residents' tax dollars a year, La-Raviere wants these accounts fully transparent and open to the public.

#### 'Sunshine of public scrutiny'

"They have to be in the sunshine of public scrutiny," LaRaviere said. "Right now, it's an extremely corrupt and shady process—it's ripe with corruption. We are in desperate need of revenue, and apparently it's a source of almost half a billion in revenue each year."

Ryan, too, questioned how lawmakers are using this money. Despite being set up to help blighted communities, Ryan pointed to how this broken system only increases communities' struggles. He mentioned a report by David Orr, Cook County Clerk, that found



Tom Tresser of CivicLab and the TIF Illumination Project appears frequently in communities and the media explaining TIF abuse.

one third of Chicago's property tax dollars—about \$660 million are diverted into TIF funds. Yet, as taxes continue to rise, school systems face mounting challenges and mental health centers are closing, bringing Ryan and other advocates to question who really benefits from TIFs.

Ryan said TIF projects primarily benefit elites, and the gains for this privileged group go beyond the luxury highrises that are popping up throughout the Loop with the help of TIF dollars. While TIFs present the idea of development projects promoting jobs, Ryan said Grassroots Collaborative did a report that found the jobs generated by TIFs primarily go to college educated whites living in suburbs not to those living in communities TIFs are designed to improve.

"If you look at a map of where the TIFs are and where the money is, you can clearly see the inequality of the TIF system," Ryan said. "It's certainly not bringing investment and resources to Englewood as much as it is to the affluent Near North Side."

Cabanban countered that Mayor Rahm Emanuel reviews TIF balances annually, "identifying surplus that can be returned to taxing districts." She asserted that officials have returned \$1 billion of TIF surplus to the Cook County Clerk since 2011.

#### **Propositions for the future**

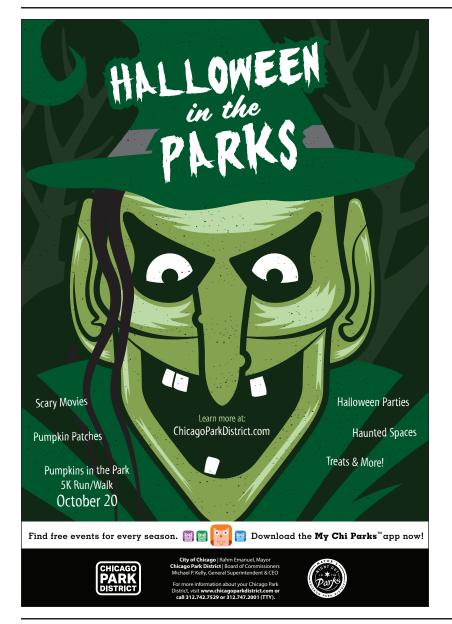
While advocates may not agree on what should happen to TIFs moving forward, they do agree the program need a major change.

Tresser called for a complete freeze of TIF accounts, also stating he wants them eliminated eventually.

"They aren't serving their original purpose," he said. "I do think that Chicago needs economic development in poor communities,

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Tresser thinks officials could allocate the \$1.4 billion to make massive changes including expanding public transportation, reopening closed schools, increasing teachers' salaries, and building up community centers and clinics.

While Ryan and LaRaviere agree more money needs to go to the South and West sides, they do not agree about eliminating TIFs. LaRaviere said TIFs must undergo a "radical" reform. With an upcoming election and new candidates in office, change may be right on the horizon.

If elected mayor, LaRaviere hopes to make the TIF system entirely transparent and will push to use funds equitably.

"When I say equitable, I don't mean everyone is the same," he said. "I mean the areas that need the most, get the most. What we have right now is the opposite the areas that need it the least get the most, and the areas that need it most get the least. This is for the benefit of our entire city. If we invest in underdeveloped areas, that helps our city. When all of Chicago prospers, *all* of Chicago prospers!"

To learn more about tax increment financing, visit the TIF Illumination Project's website at www. tifreports.com. For Grassroots Collaborative, log on to grassrootscollaborative.org. For the City's TIF website, log on to https://www. cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/ dcd/provdrs/tif.html.

## UIC expert assesses TIFs in new report

David F. Merriman, the James J. Stukel Presidential Professor of Public Administration at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, has worked with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy to publish a report, *Improving Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for Economic Development.* 

Merriman concluded that "in most cases, TIF has not accomplished the goal of promoting economic development."

He went on to say that TIF "has the potential to draw investment into long-neglected places, but its success requires rigorous analysis, transparency, and oversight to ensure that the expenditure of taxpayer dollars truly benefits the public."

The report is available for \$15. For more information, log on to www.lincolninst.edu.

To contact Merriman, email dmerrim@uic.edu.

### Pulia works to better Tri-Taylor in variety of ways

#### Continued from page 4

the people of the United States for the right reasons. The Army isn't for everyone, but I sincerely believe that more people should consider joining for the education benefits and life experience. Given the extremely hard task in front of me, I still managed to graduate number one in my class, earning the distinction of honor graduate for having the highest academic grade point average in my class and qualifying physical fitness test scores."

He also has worked as a campaign staffer, and a Republican official approached him about being GOP ward committeeman. The primary focus is appointing election judges, to make the election process transparent and bi-partisan. It is an unpaid, volunteer position. His term ends in March 2020. He hopes to run again in 2020.

Pulia's future plans encompass politics, Tri-Taylor community activism, and more time with his family. "I have a wedding coming up next year and have been busy planning for that," Pulia said. "Long term, I hope to work for the federal government in law enforcement in some way, perhaps with the Drug Enforcement Administration or Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms." He also may run for office.

Concerning the new Tri-Taylor Neighborhood Watch Group (see article, page 1), Pulia said, "I know the group is coordinating with the police districts that cover Tri-Taylor. I am personally all for it, and hope it grows into a real community watch program with actual results in the future."

For more about the Tri-Taylor Community Association, log on to tritaylor.community.



A UIC graduate with a Master's degree in public administration, Eric Pulia is interested in community af airs.

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# Wisconsin Foxconn plant pollution potential prompts resolutions, suit

#### Continued from page 1

supporting documents explained Racine County's contribution to regional pollution was enough to receive the non-attainment designation, but the revised report stated officials had no way to be sure whether it was contributing any pollution, so it was one of several counties they removed from the list, and these counties were now in "attainment."

On Aug. 2, Madigan, along with the City of Chicago, filed a lawsuit in against the EPA. Madigan alleged that the EPA improperly designated a number of counties in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin as in "attainment" with the air quality standard for ozone. The designations mean that these counties do not need to take steps to reduce smog, despite the EPA's previous determination that the counties were not in compliance with the ozone air quality standard.

Designating Racine County, the future home of the \$10 billion Foxconn electronics manufacturing area, as in attainment allows the development to avoid meeting stricter standards for controlling smog, and Madigan alleged that would hurt air quality in nearby

Illinois counties.

"Thescienceisclearonthehealth effects of air pollution: increased asthma attacks, wheezing, and shortness of breath from ozone; and heart attacks and preterm birth from particulate matter, are just a few examples," said Susan Buchanan, clinical associate professor of environmental and occupational health sciences in the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, and director of the Great Lakes Center for Children's Environmental Health. "The purpose of air pollution regulation is to promote human health, and great strides have been made in the 30 years in our country's air quality. But deaths from asthma and heart attacks, and severe asthma attacks continue. We know that some of these are caused by exposure to air pollutants."

The Illinois Environmental Council, a Springfield-based environmental policy lobbying group, has expressed concern about the Foxconn facility's environmental impact on Illinois. Jennifer Walling, the organization's executive director, told Gazette Chicago that it seemed clear that, when it came to the attainment designation, federal law was not being followed.

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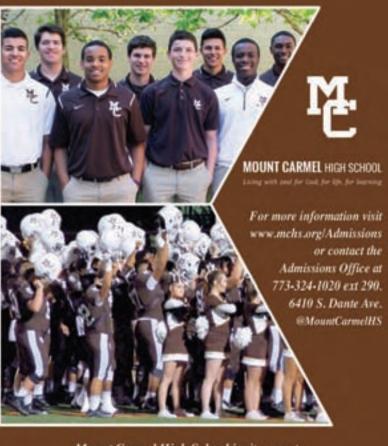
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"The attainment permit is a federal issue, and it's very clear that the decision shouldn't have been made," she said. "It's pretty clear that the standards that were put in place for this permit were not appropriate for the area. They're changing attainment areas [based on standards] that really don't fit federal definitions. It should be pretty clear that this was done without looking at the federal law."

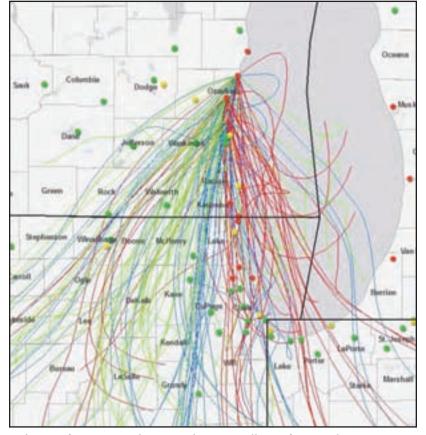
Walling said that this has been part of a broader pattern where the State of Wisconsin and EPA relaxed environmental restrictions in order to encourage Foxconn to build a plant in that state.

"I think a lot of things have been done to locate the facility in Wisconsin that have high risk for harming human health and environment," she said.

For example, Walling said, wetland mitigation permits have been waived – which, she said, already seems to be causing increased flooding in Lake County.

#### **Data questioned**

Mike Mikulka, president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 704, the labor union that represents EPA employees in Chicago and throughout Region 5, told *Gazette Chicago* he believed Madigan had grounds to address the issue because he has not seen any scientific data supporting the change



A drawing from an EPA document shows air pollution from southern Wisconsin traveling south to Illinois to Cook and surrounding counties.

of designations from non-attainment to attainment. He also believes the situation raises other issues that the Office of Illinois Attorney General might want to investigate.

Attainment designations signify where a county has been able to meet the most recently established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In 2015, the EPA lowered the primary eighthour ozone standard from 0.075 parts per million (ppm) to 0.070 ppm to provide increased protection of public health.

As part of the designation process, state governments must recommend which counties should receive attainment designation. According to the letter and EPA technical support document, the State of Wisconsin recommended all counties near its border with Illinois, including Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee counties, be designated as having reached attainment. In December 2017, the EPA recommended either fullfledged or partial non-attainment designations for all counties in question.

According to an EPA technical support document, Racine County and nearby Washington and Waukesha counties do not, by themselves, generate enough pollution to trigger air quality monitors, but they contribute enough pollution to the nearby areas that do trigger air monitors to receive a non-attainment status. This conclusion was based on a combination of air quality data, emissions data, population density, and traffic levels.

"The EPA has concluded that [Racine County and other] nearby areas contribute to the ozone concentrations in violation of the 2015 ozone NAAQS through emissions from point and non-point sources into the counties with violating monitors," the report stated. "Waukesha County has, by *Continued on page 12* 





# Wisconsin Foxconn plant pollution potential prompts resolutions, lawsuit

#### Continued from page 11

far, the highest [nitrogen dioxide] and [volatile organic compounds] emissions in the...counties without violating monitors, followed by Racine and Washington counties, which have the next greatest [nitrogen dioxide] emissions."

Environmentalists are worried about possible increased pollution when Foxconn opens its facility.

In his letter, Kaplan wrote that the State of Wisconsin could submit any information that affects the EPA's conclusions.

### EPA says 'no evidence;' Madigan disagrees

The report goes on to explain that, between the EPA analysis and Wisconsin data, there is no evidence that contributing counties, including Racine County, actually generate enough pollution to affect pollution levels in counties that triggered air monitors. That belief led officials to give the counties the attainment designation.

"EPA does not believe that there is sufficient evidence of contribution from the other areas in the area of analysis and thus a designation consisting of the area violating the standard is appropriate," the report stated.

In response to comments issued along with the EPA supporting document, the agency noted designations are based on air pollution as it is measured now. Because the Foxconn plant has not been built, the EPA cannot take whatever pollution it will generate into account

Mikulka told *Gazette Chicago* he remained skeptical about how EPA reconsidered the decision, saying he was not convinced the data would support an attainment designation.

"It's normally a technical basis for changing determination," he said. "Is there any more monitoring data, or was more monitoring needed, or was there insufficient monitoring? I don't believe any of those came up. So I think, under the circumstances, I don't see how determination can be changed."

Illinois Attorney General Madigan stated the EPA's final decision ignored data showing that, on average, Racine County exceeded the 0.070 ppm ozone limit between 2015 and 2017.

According to both the original and the revised report, no data is available for 2014. In 2015, Racine County came in at just less than the limit, at 0.068 ppm, and in 2016 it exceeded the limit, at 0.076 ppm. The average of the two numbers available—0.072 ppm—slightly exceeds the limit.



Photo courtesy Slowking Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan may sue the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to stop increased air pollution from coming to Illinois from Wisconsin.

"Despite its name, the Environmental Protection Agency now operates with total disregard for the quality of our air and water, and in this case, the U.S. EPA is putting a company's profit ahead of our natural resources and the public's health," Madigan said, noting she was filing the lawsuit "to protect the environment and people from the consequences of this unsupported decision."

#### **Decision to file**

Mikulka agrees with Madigan filing the suit.

"I think it's within the duty of the attorney general to look at what is going on in an adjacent state," he said.

Walling said that her organization supports Madigan's lawsuit.

"I think the air permit [decision] needs to be challenged and, if the facility is put in place, making sure environmental laws are enforced is very important," she said.

"With the proposed manufacturing facility less than 90 miles away, Chicago has legitimate concerns about the Trump administration loosening pollution regulations that can impact our environment and our residents' health," said Ed Siskel, City of Chicago Corporation Counsel. "We are joining with the Attorney General to raise the alarm about the decision and to send a strong message to the EPA that it has an obligation to protect our environment."

Ultimately, Mikulka finds water-related environmental issues even more pressing. He voiced concern that the manufacturing facility will go up on wetlands.

"Water is stored at wetlands rather than going off to adjacent proprieties," Mikulka said. "If the



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wetland is going to be filled, it would take away storage capacity of those wetlands."

Putting the facility on a river basin would worsen flooding, especially in the Des Plaines River in north and northwestern suburbs in Illinois, he added.

"I think this issue is certainly something that bears attention of the Attorney General," Mikulka said.

He also explained that the Foxconn facility is expected to draw seven million gallons of water daily from Lake Michigan, with two million used in its production process and five million discharged.

"Will the water be treated and released, and to where?" Mikulka asked. "Will it go back to the river basin and the Great Lakes basin? That is the issue that is purview of the attorney general to look at."

Foxconn announced it agreed to adopt a Zero Liquid Discharge system by recycling most of the water, reducing both the amount of water it needs and the amount of polluted water it releases. This step will reduce the facility's water intake by about a half, and while it addresses the water pollution issue, it doesn't resolve the flooding issue, Mikulka noted.

The Board of Commissioners of Lake County, the closest Illinois county to southeast Wisconsin, on June 18 passed a resolution opposing the plant because of the aforementioned flooding and pollution concerns. On May 31, 2018, the Illinois State Senate adopted a resolution urging Illinois State agencies to take action against loss of water resources, flooding, and other ecological impacts of the Foxconn facility.

"In summary, I believe it's appropriate for the Illinois Attorney General to look at this very closely," Mikulka said.

After the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approved air permits for Foxconn, Randy Bryce, the Democratic candidate for Congress in Racine County, said, "For Scott Walker, it wasn't enough that taxpayers forked over billions of dollars to Foxconn. He expects us to sacrifice our air quality, too."

Martha Laning, chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, said, "I'm thankful that the Illinois Attorney General is doing her job by taking a stand to protect air quality on behalf of the citizens of both Wisconsin and Illinois."

The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the EPA, and Gov. Scott Walker's office declined to comment for this article. Foxconn could not be reached for comment.

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# **Gutierrez looks at congressional career, local political landscape**

#### By Rick Romano

Long-time 4th District CongressmanLuisGutierrez, who is stepping down from his Capitol Hill post after 26 years, said he will continue serving the cause of immigrants in the U.S. while working to help Puerto Rico, his ancestral homeland.

Gutierrez, a Chicago-born son of Puerto Rican parents who emigrated to the U.S. in the 1950s, previously served seven years as the city's 26th Ward Alderman. In Congress, Gutierrez has served on the Judiciary Committee, the Financial Services Committee, and as chair of the Immigration Task Force of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

He explained his career-changing decision as well as his future plans in a recent *Gazette Chicago* interview.

Why did you decide not to seek re-election?

"There were three factors in my decision," Gutierrez said. "The first factor is that [Cook County Commissioner Jesus] Chuy Garcia would run. That doesn't mean that he would win the seat, but I had a lot of confidence that if his name was put into nomination the people would vote for him. I thought it was a natural transition. "I never believed that a person makes up a Congressional seat," Gutierrez continued. "No one is irreplaceable. I had very high standards for the person who would replace me, so when he decided, I felt good because I knew that I was leaving the people of the 4th Congressional District in good hands—good, solid, safe hands.

"The second thing is that I feel a real sense of urgency in making sure that Donald Trump does not get re-elected, and I thought I could do a lot more in making sure that does not happen," he added. "That is a very positive goal because it will be good for immigrants, it will be good for women, good for gay people, and it will be good for all Americans who believe in a system that is fair.

"So I will be spending a lot of time in Florida and Pennsylvania, and I will be focused," Gutierrez asserted. "I will be working, not retiring—changing focus. I will be using Puerto Rico as my home base for at least eight months of the year. Traveling back and forth. Chicago will always be part of who I am."

A third reason and new focus for his work, Gutierrez said, will include traveling with the National Partnership for New Americans, a multiethnic, multiracial partnership representing the country's



Courtesy Office of Rep. Luis Gutierrez Mayor Julia Nazario of Loiza, Puerto Rico, and Congressman Gutierrez with food for residents after Hurricane Maria.

37 largest refugee and immigrant rights organizations across 31 states.

It is work that focuses on "bringing democracy back to America," he said.

What will you be doing in Puerto Rico?

"I will work with environmentalists, those who are working to create clean, viable water and a new energy plan and with those building new housing to replace the thousands that were destroyed in the hurricane," he said. "Also jobs. I want to connect the fight and everyday struggle for those who live on the island with the Puerto Ricans in the U.S. I want to say 'I just came from the island, and this is what I saw, and here is what they are facing.' "

Gutierrez said he is preparing a video to use to help communicate his efforts.

Which of your actions makes you most proud?

"Changing the view of many Americans about immigrants and how important they are to our society," Gutierrez said. "And how important it is to have an immigration system that is humane, that's kind, that's family oriented and keeps us all safe. I see 800,000 Dreamers and I helped that happen through my advocacy. I see Republicans and Independents and Democrats who know that we need an immigration system that helps people come to this country and not criminals. And that immigrants are bringing value to the cause.

"The 4th Congressional District office today is important because we do important immigration *Continued on page 25* 



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# New Tri-Taylor neighborhood group created after area hit by crime wave

Continued from page 1

the new group's co-creator. "But I was always too busy and didn't want to do it by myself. After the recent rash of summer crimes, I saw my neighbor, Rick Romero, post on Facebook about starting one, so I contacted him and we decided to work together to do so."

Sergeant Rocco Alioto of the Chicago Police Department's Office of Communications confirmed police have charged Ronald Moore with five counts of burglary as well as one misdemeanor count of criminal trespass to land following a series of late summer burglaries in and around Tri-Taylor. The area also saw two high-profile shootings on Taylor Street in relatively rapid succession.

Although the recent burglaries and shootings led many Tri-Taylorites to express outrage on social media, some indicators show the area has been safer in August and September of 2018 than during the same period in 2017.

Sergeant Alioto's data on the 12th District, which includes all of Tri-Taylor east of Western Avenue as well as large swaths of adjoining neighborhoods, indicate the area had fewer murders, shootings, burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and robberies between August 1 and September 20 of 2018 than during the same period in 2017. Police counted 25 shooting incidents during the 2017 period but only six during the 2018 period. Alioto did not provide data on the 11th District, which includes Tri-Taylor west of Western Avenue.

The Tri-Taylor Community Association (TTCA) Facebook group, a separate organization, has provided a forum for locals to exchange information about neighborhood crime. Nicole Beck, a TTCA administrator, said residents' current concerns stem partly from violent gang activity and other area crime that began to de-escalate only in 2017.

"Brother's Barber Shop was at 914 S. Western Ave., and that was the clubhouse for the Traveling Vice Lords," said Beck. "And so for a couple years we endured daily shootings over west of Western. There was also drug dealing on Western Avenue. So that was a difficult situation for the neighborhood, and I think it's got all of the hairs on the back of our neck up about what happens around here."

#### Aldermanic support

Daniel Egan, spokesperson for Alderman Jason Ervin (28th Ward), whose ward includes most of Tri-Taylor, expressed support for the new neighborhood watch group. "The alderman looks forward to working with this new community group and all community groups about all issues in the 28th Ward," said Egan. "Only through robust community engagement and involvement is it possible to address issues of inequality, crime, and enhancing our public schools."

One of Moore's alleged victims would not go on record with his name or address for fear of being targeted by other burglars. He described his role in the police's apprehending Moore, which occurred in part because of he used Amazon's Ring application in conjunction with his home security cameras.

"One July morning I met my wife at the gym," the man wrote in a Facebook message. "She headed home and I went to work. Shortly after she frantically calls me she came home to our garage door broken open. She had no idea if the burglar was still present. She checked our Ring camera system and it turns out he struck early [that morning]. Our secure door with the deep bolt? He banged away at it with a large piece of stone from our yard for over ten minutes. Landscapers were working next door, covering the noise. I created a flyer with still shots of the offender's face which we also

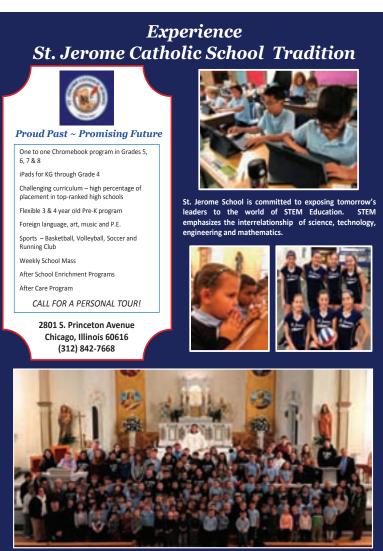
posted on social media. Plenty of people would report seeing him and would call the police but would not stick around to ID him.

In August "it happened again," the man continued. "He returned, trying again to get access to my garage. My new steel door held up, but he did break the lock. He then gained access to my basement, while my wife was upstairs showering. He stole my daughter's piano keyboard this time. Again, plenty of video footage.

"So using this footage my wife made a new series of screenshots from both robberies and posted them in the neighborhood Facebook page, alerting neighbors," he noted. "She also posted it on the Ring neighbors app which allows people from other neighborhoods to share their videos. People from Ukrainian Village had footage of the same guy breaking into their houses and garages. We were able to alert the police that this criminal was the very same one and link all the cases.

"Then Sunday, Sept. 2 it happened," the man continued. "He broke into two homes in the Tri-Taylor area. He stole a Sox jersey from the first one and put it on. He was trying to steal a bike but was interrupted and chased away by the homeowner. Brazenly he





Education | Faith | Community | Athletics www.stjeromeschool.net returned to try to get the bike that night! The homeowner spotted him, still wearing the Sox jersey and chased him away again. Then he made his way over to Bishop and Taylor and tried to steal a bike there. This is on video. He is still wearing the Sox jersey! The resident recognized him from my wife's posts on the Ring neighbors app and alerted police. They caught Ronald Moore that night."

#### Support and concerns

Although many residents expressed strong support for the watch group, others voiced concerns about racial profiling.

Roxanne Hill-Johnson, who is African American, said she worries in part because of her family's long history in Tri-Taylor.

"My people have been over here quite some time," said Hill-Johnson. "They were over here when it was all Italian and Italians were breaking down my aunt's window every day. And finally, they had a police car sit in front of the house every day until it just stopped."

Hill-Johnson said someone recently called her son "the n-word" while walking through the neighborhood.

"Some people leave windows unlocked and doors open," added Hill-Johnson. "I don't think anything will help other than people just being vigilant. Another police car is not going to help anything over here. They're not going to give us one because this is a blue area in Chicago. Downtown is a blue area. Now, if you go west of here, it's a red area, and they put cars where cars are most needed."

Another resident who wished to remain anonymous for fear of being bullied on social media said she and others have been prevented from joining the Tri-Taylor Neighborhood Watch Facebook group because they have expressed concerns about the group's potential for racial profiling. She also said white men dominate the group's committees.

Beck, who is white, wrote that claims of racial profiling in or by the watch group were "completely unfounded and inflammatory rhetoric....We move into Tri-Taylor *because* of its ethnic diversity! We can't be swayed by Trumpian altright fears prevalent in other [pockets] of the nation. This is Chicago and [we are] proud to live in such a diverse city and neighborhood!"

Hill-Johnson attended the Tri-Taylor Neighborhood Watch's second meeting on Sept. 12. The meeting started at the Slide Bar but soon migrated to the much quieter Damenzo's Pizza down the block.

Meeting topics focused on the local area. A few attendees voice concern about foliage blocking a particular police camera and making it ineffective. Others discussed "Be aware. Be involved. Be educated."

#### - Michael Ramstedt of the Tri-Taylor Neighborhood Watch

progress in developing the group's various committees. One committee addresses explaining and promoting the Ring application, while another handles package theft and improper package delivery. While the group intends to organize regular watch patrols, there will be no walkers. The group also has a personal self-defense committee.

After the meeting, Hill-Johnson expressed cautious optimism about the group.

"They need to stay a little bit more on task, but things happen," said Hill-Johnson. "I'm realistic in my thoughts as far as some things that are not going to happen."

Neighbors had a range of advice for residents seeking to protect their property or persons.

"Make sure to use alarms even when home," wrote the resident whose house allegedly was burgled by Moore.

"Be aware. Be involved. Be educated," wrote Ramstedt.

"If you don't have any felonies, get a gun," said Hill-Johnson.

Gregory Kirsch, Chair of the Tri-Taylor Community Association, welcomed the new watch group.

"As to the Tri-Taylor Neighborhood Watch, we are excited they are active and we promote their activities on our Facebook page and encourage all our members to participate and help the Chicago Police Department make our neighborhood safe," Kirsch said."

Community activist Eric Pulia (see article, page 3), said that the Tri-Taylor Neighborhood Watch "has formed committees and goals as of now, and look for them to be more involved in the future."

For the Tri-Taylor Neighborhood Watch Facebook page, log on to https://www.facebook.com/groups/1059889377503640/.

*Editor's note:* Robert Kingett also contributed to this article.

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# **Around the Neighborhood**

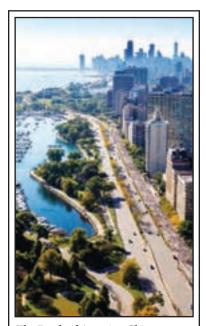
By William S. Bike

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The Bank of America Chicago Marathon will be held Sunday, Oct. 7, starting and finishing in Grant Park.

#### **3CS REUNION**

Tickets are on sale for the 3Cs Reunion, gathering people who worked at Columbus, Cuneo, and Cabrini hospitals as well as at St. Anthony's, St. Mary's, St. Joseph's and St. Elizabeth's; it will be held at the Best Western Hotel, 4400 Frontage Rd., Hillside, IL, Saturday, Oct. 13. Events begin with an open beer and wine bar at 6:30 p.m. and dinner, DJ, and entertainment at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$75. Contact Shirley Reed at (773) 484-7595 or Screed16459@aol.com; Maxim Canino at (708) 642-4082 or 7358@hotmail.com; or Barbara Billops at (773) 941-3294 or Billops2014@gmail.com.

#### **RINALDI HONORED**

**Chiarugi Hardware** owner Paul Rinaldi was named the first-ever recipient of the Neighborhood Hero Award, co-sponsored by the Little Italy Chicago Neighborhood Association (LICNA) and Onesti Enterntainment. Joseph Esposito, president of LICNA, presented Rinaldi with the award. Esposito's father, Joseph Esposito Sr., served in Vietnam with Rinaldi. Chiarugi Hardware is located at 1412 W. Taylor St.

#### 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.

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

#### **TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON LAKE**

The **Chicago Department of Transportation** is installing new traffic signals and replacing pavement,



Photo by Christopher Valenting

Joseph Esposito (left), president of LICNA, presented the inaugural Neighborhood Hero Award to Paul Rinaldi, owner of Chiarugi Hardware on Taylor St. Onesti Entertainment is a co-sponsor of the award.

signage, and street lighting at Aberdeen and Lake Streets in a project that will last until November.

#### **HR MASTERMIND**

The **Chicago HR Mastermind** is a free monthly meetup of more than 1,100 human resources practitioners, service providers, students, and Chicago area professionals in job transition who come together to expand networks and solve problems. Arrive eager to be of service and leave ready to make an impact. Visit www.HRHotSeat. com for a calendar of upcoming events.

#### **HOST A BOOK MEETING**

Editor Tom Tresser, who published the book *Chicago Is Not Broke*, is asking people to host a "book meeting in a box" at their homes. He will send ten books to you plus a discussion guide. You invite people to your home and either give or sell them the book. He supplies a link to a pre-recorded personalized video introduction that you play for the attendees. If you bring those folks back together after they read the book, Tresser will join that gathering via a live video chat. Contact Tresser at (312) 804-3230 or tom@civiclab.us.

#### CJO 40TH

The Chicago Jazz Orchestra (CJO) is offering a 40th anniversary, three-concert subscription series starting with a night celebrating jazz diva Nancy Wilson on Saturday, Oct. 13, followed by the Friday, Dec. 21, debut of ELLAbration pairing Ella Fitzgerald's signature holiday songs with Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite. The series culminates on Saturday, May 18, with a concert celebrating the Chicago Jazz Orchestra's 40 years of music. The shows will be presented at the Studebaker Theater, 410 S. Michigan Ave. Single tickets to each concert are \$35 (balcony) and \$45 (floor). Log on to chicagojazzorchestra.org.

#### WOMEN'S PARK NEWS

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







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.fit-4mom.com.

Each Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. through Dec. 14, the park will host bridge games.

The Park Advisory Council will meet at 6:45 p.m. on the Tuesdays of Oct. 9 and Dec. 4.

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

#### **FREDERICK THE MOUSE**

**Chicago Children's Theatre** will host the play *Frederick* from Tuesday, Oct. 9, to Sunday, Nov. 11. The play follows the adventures of Frederick the Mouse. The theatre is at 100 S. Racine Ave. Call (312) 374-8835 or log on to chicagochildrenstheatre.org.

#### **DEPAUL NEWS**

**DePaul University** will host its alumni weekend Friday through Sunday, Oct. 12 through 14, and seeks volunteers and attendees. Call (800) 437-1898 or email alumniweekend@depaul.edu.

The DePaul School of Music plans some 40 events over 11 days to celebrate the new Holtschneider Performance Center on the Lincoln Park Campus. Hear soprano Ana Maria Martinez on Sunday, Nov. 4; the Orpheus Chamber



Chicago Children's Theatre will host the play Frederick, which follows the adventures of Frederick the Mouse.

Orchestra on Tuesday, Nov. 6; jazz artist Nicholas Payton on Friday, Nov. 9; percussionist Evelyn Glennie on Saturday, Nov. 10; and violinist Itzhak Perlman on Sunday, Nov. 11. The celebration also includes a public conversation series featuring music industry CEOs and artists. Tickets are on sale, and prices range from free to \$45, with a limited number of premium seats. Organizers will add more events; see the current schedule online at http://bit.ly/ SOMcelebration.

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

**De La Salle Institute** announced that six recent graduates and one current senior won recognition for their achievements on the Advanced Placement Calculus exam earlier this year. Recent graduates Tiffiny Haepp, Yan Sun, YuMeng Xie, Hankai Xing, Yunying Zhang, and Yuying Zhao and senior Ruoxuan (Tiffany) Pang scored high on the test.

Pastor Jonathan Banks of the Apostolic Faith Church of Chicago, located three blocks south of De La Salle, gave the keynote address at De La Salle's 2018 freshman retreat.

De La Salle will host Coffee with an Administrator on the Wednesdays of Oct. 17 and 24 and Nov. 14 and 28, beginning each day at 8:30 a.m. at its campus at 3434 S. Michigan Ave. The coffees will give prospective parents a look at De La Salle. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact John Brogan at (312) 842-7355, ext. 147, or broganj@dls.org.

The school welcomed Bishop Alberto Rojas, who celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit on Sept. 7 in the Parmer Activity Center. He also presided over the blessing and rededication of the Parmer Activity Center, Harrison Hall, the Meteor Athletic Complex.

De La Salle welcomed Alderman Edward M. Burke (14th Ward) on Sept. 10, who spoke about presidential conventions held in Chicago.

The annual alumni banquet will be held Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Beverly Country Club, 8700 S. Western Ave. For information, call (312) 842-7355, ext. 146, or email willinghamc@dls.org.

The Bernard Heerey Family Foun-dation recently renewed its grant to De La Salle to provide scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Open houses are scheduled for Monday, Oct. 22, at 6 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 17, at 9 a.m. An entrance exam is Saturday, Dec. 1, at 8 a.m. Call (312) 842-7355.

De La Salle is at 3434 S. Michigan Ave. Call (312) 842-7355 or log on to www.dls.org.

#### FARMERS MARKETS

**City Market** at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., is open Thursdays through Oct. 25, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Continued on page 20* 



# <u>Around the Neighborhood</u>

#### FARMERS MARKETS

Continued from page 19

**City Market** at Federal Plaza, Adams Street and Dearborn Parkway, is open Tuesdays through Oct. 30, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Fulton Market Expo,** 800 W. Fulton Market, is open Saturdays through Oct. 27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Green City Market**, 115 S. Sangamon St., is open Saturdays through Oct. 27, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Hyde Park Farmers Market**, 5300 S. Harper Ct., is open Thursdays through Oct. 25, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**McKinley Park Farmers Market**, 3700 S. Archer Ave., is open Saturdays through Oct. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Plant Chicago Farmers Market, 1400 W. 46th St., is open Saturday, Oct. 6, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Printers Row City Market**, 700 S. Dearborn St., is open Saturdays through Oct. 27, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### **LEGAL DEFENSE**

**First Defense Legal Aid**, 5100 W. Harrison St., provides representation to people in custody, informs people of their rights, and organizes volunteers to help.

For more information, call (773) 434-4162.

#### **GLESSNER HOUSE**

**Glessner House**, 1800S. Prairie Ave., will host Shadows on the Street, haunted tours of historic Prairie Avenue, on Friday and Saturday,

Oct. 26 and 27, at 7 and 8:15 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. The 32nd annual Edgar Allan Poe readings will take place on Saturday, Oct. 27, with readings at 5 and 8 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. A musical performance, the World's Columbian Exposition in Music and Story, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 28, at Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 S. Michigan Ave. Enjoy a reception and tours at 2 p.m., with the performance at 3 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. Reservations for all events may be made online at www.glessnerhouse.org.

#### **GALA DINNER**

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce Midwest will hold its gala and awards dinner Friday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m. at the Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th St. Call (312) 553-9137, ext. 105, or email gala@iacc.chicago.com.

#### **JOFFREY BALLET**

**Joffrey Ballet Chicago** will present *Swan Lake* from Wednesday through Sunday from Oct. 17 through 28 at 10 E. Randolph St. Call (312) 386-8905.

#### HALL OF FAMER

Dearborn Park resident **Wai Yu Kuan** has been inducted into the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame for her dedication to physical fitness by teaching Tai Chi for 37



A fresco of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini at the shrine named for her. See a movie about her life on Oct. 18.





*Glessner House will remember the World's Columbian Exposition in Music and Story on Sunday, Oct. 28, at Second Presbyterian Church.* 

years. She conducts classes at the Chinese American Service League and Chicago Park District.

#### **MADISON ROW**

Madison Row merchants and the West Central Association Chamber of Commerce will present a Second Saturday event on Oct. 13 entitled Uncorked on Madrow, featuring selected wines at West Loop spots.

Come to the Halloween Trick or Treat parade on Madison Row the evening of Saturday, Oct. 27.

Contact Rod Burch at rod@ wcachicago.org or (312) 504-1884.

#### **MCKINLEY PARK NEWS**

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

The park is at 37th Street and Archer Avenue.

#### THE PEOPLE'S SAINT

The National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini will host a screening of *Frances Xavier Cabrini: The People's Saint* on Thursday, Oct. 18, at 2520 N. Lakeview Ave. Admission is free. The event begins at 6 p.m. with light refreshments, followed by the movie at 7 p.m., and ending with a question and answer session. Call (773) 360-5746 or log on to www.cabrinination-alshrine.org.

#### **OPEN HOUSES**

**Mount Carmel High School** will host open houses on the Sundays of Oct. 28 and Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and shadow days on Friday, Oct. 5, and Monday, Oct. 8, from 8 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. Call (773) 324-1020, ext. 290, or log on to www.mchs.org/admissions. The school is at 6410 S. Dante Ave.

#### **OKTOBERFEST AT NEWMAN**

UIC's St. John Paul II **Newman Center's** Oktoberfest will be held Saturday, Oct. 27, from 5 p.m. to midnight at 700 S. Morgan St., featuring endless plates and bottomless steins. Log on to JP2Newman. org/Oktoberfest.

#### **FAMILY FISHING**

Enjoy family fishing at **Northerly Island**, 1521 S. Linn White Dr., every Saturday in October from 8 to 11 a.m. Call (312) 745-2910 for information.

#### **OPEN HOUSES**

**Francis W. Parker School**, 330 W. Webster Ave., will hold open houses on the Saturdays of Oct. 13 and 20 and Nov. 17. Call (773) 797-5107.

#### **MARKET AND TOURS**

**The Plant**, a facility home to farm and food-producing businesses, hosts an indoor farmers market at 1400 W. 46th St. the first Saturday of







(Top photo) Jeorge Holmes and Diva Montel perform at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii's Festa di Tutti I Santi. (Bottom photo) Taylor Street friends reuniting at the Festa.

every month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Go on tours of the Plant at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. For information, log on to PlantChicago.org/market.

#### **INTERNET COURSES**

**Public Narrative**, 600 S. Michigan Ave., offers courses in various locations on topics including social media, communication plans, podcasting, search engine optimization, and analytics. Call (312) 369-6400.

#### **MARKET FESTIVAL**

The **Randolph Street Market Festi**val at 1341W. Randolph St. is home to the Chicago Antique Market, Indie Designer Market, Modern Vintage Chicago, and the Holiday Market. Browse plentiful vintage

#### **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 November events should be sent to Gazette Chicago in October. The next deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 17, for the Nov. 2 issue.

items, with more than 150 vendors selling their favorite collectibles, and enjoy food and live music. Dates are the Saturdays and Sundays of, Oct. 27-28 and Nov. 17-18. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free parking available. Call (312) 666-1200 or toll free at (877) 319-2643. Go to www.randolphstreetmarket.com for admission prices and more information.

#### **RUSH GENERATIONS**

**Rush Generations**, will host a Bone Health program Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 1 p.m., and Precision Medicine and the All of Us Study program Wednesday, Oct. 31, at 11 a.m. Call (888) 352-RUSH.

#### SAINT IGNATIUS NEWS

For online tours of **Saint Ignatius CollegePrep**,logontohttps://tour. lcp360.com/nocache/stignatius/ tour/.

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

#### SHRINE NEWS

The **Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii** will host its 18th annual Lost Child Pilgrimage on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event includes lunch and a presentation by Julie Raino, director of Meridian Counseling for Grief and Loss and bereavement coordinator for Heartland Hospice. Cost is \$25. Call (312) 421-3757 or log on to ourladyofpompeii.org.

The shrine is at 1224 W. Lexington St. *Continued on page 22*  SIGN UP TODAY Gazette Chicago E-edition

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#### Continued from page 21 **OKTOBERFEST**

Saint Jerome School, 2801 S. Princeton Ave., will hold an Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person, which includes food and entertainment by a live German band. A cash bar with beer and wine will be available. Weather permitting, it will be held in the school parking lot.

#### SIXTH GRACE NEWS

Sixth Grace Presbyterian Church, 600 E. 35th St., holds Overeaters Anonymous meetings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday, co-facilitated by Pastor David B. Thornton. Call (312) 225-5300.

#### SOUTH LOOP ENTREPRENEURS

South Loop Entrepreneurs meets the second Tuesday of each month. Enjoy a presentation by a South Loop entrepreneur followed by breakouts to consider questions in smaller groups and collective wisdom from the whole group as individuals share something they have learned. For more information, follow South Loop Entrepreneurs on Facebook.

#### **SLN EVENTS**

South Loop Neighbors will hold a pub crawl on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 2 to 6 p.m. and a loft walk on Saturday, Dec. 15. Email president@ SouthLoopNeighbors.org.

#### **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. The organization also provides trained ambassadors to visit community events and schools to educate about trauma.



Robert Barish, UIC vice chancellor for health af airs; Clark Stanford, DDS, dean, UIC College of Dentistry; Kelly Pulliam of LIBERTY; Senator Patricia Van Pelt (D-5th); Terence Wright of WellCare; Jessica Pickens of NextLevel Health; and Judy Bowlby of LIBERTY at the Center of Excellence Award presentation.

#### **DISCOUNT TICKETS**

The Spirit of Harmony Foundation, led by rock star Todd Rundgren and dedicated to encouraging youngsters to play music, offers discount tickets to see Blue Man Group, with some of the proceeds going to the foundation. Call (773) 348-4000 and mention code SOHF.

#### **PINOCHLE CLUB AT TAYLOR-**LAURIDSEN

Taylor-Lauridsen Park, 704W. 42nd St., seeks new members to join 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.

#### **FUNDRAISER**

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art will hold its Lifetime of Achievement fundraising gala on Saturday, Oct. 6, at 6 p.m. The institute is at 2320 W. Chicago Ave. Call (773) 227-5522 or log on to www.uima-chicago.org.

#### **UIC INFORMATION**

University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry students Maria Molnar and Ottica Cotofrea provided oral health information for youngsters at Alderman Walter Burnett's Stay in School Parade and Picnic on Saturday, Aug. 25, in Union Park.

The College of Dentistry earned a Center of Excellence Award from LIBERTY Dental Plan and Illinois State Senator Patricia Van Pelt (D-5th). Representatives of LIB-ERTY, which administers dental benefits on behalf of its medical plan partners NextLevel Health and Harmony Health Plan, UIC, and the College of Dentistry, attended the presentation. LIB-ERTY selects centers of excellence through a rigorous evaluation of safety, compliance, dental services, and patient satisfaction.

If you have not registered to vote in the Tuesday, Nov. 6, election, sign up for TurboVote through UIC at vote.uic.edu and you will receive a completed registration form with a pre-addressed stamped envelope.

#### **CHECKHOV PLAY**

The UIC School of Theatre & Music will present Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov from Friday, Nov. 9, through Saturday, Nov. 17. There will be a post-show discussion on Sunday, Nov. 11, after the

2 p.m. show. The theatre is at 10-44 W. Harrison St. For tickets, call (312) 996-2939 or email theatre@ uic.edu. Log on to theatreandmusic.uic.edu for information.

#### **EXPANDING NARRATIVES**

Expanding Narratives, an exhibition of work by more than 20 artists, is on display from now through Sunday, Dec. 30, at the University of Chicago Smart Museum of Art, 5500 S. Greenwood Ave. Call (773) 702-0200.

#### SAFE ZONE

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

#### **IOOTH ANNIVERSARY**

The West Central Association will celebrate its 100th anniversary the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 17, at Revel Fulton Market, 1215 W. Fulton Market. Log on to www. wcachicago.org.

#### WEST LOOP SOCCER

West Loop Soccer Club has started a travel, competitive soccer program, in which four of its teams (ages U7-U12) compete in a league against academies from around the city. The program's home field is Skinner Park at 1331 W. Adams St., and local residents are invited to come cheer on the team. To learn more, email info@ westloopsoccerclub. com or visit www.westloopsoccerclub.com/.





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

#### **Condos will soon** become rental units at River City

After a three-year condominium deconversion negotiation at River City, owners finally agreed to a \$90.5 million offer by Marc Realty and partner Wolcott Group.

The buyers will sweeten the offer for the 448-unit residential portion of the mixed-use building at 800 S. Wells St. by \$1 million if all owners produce their units' closing documents before the building closing, expected to occur within 90 days of the Aug. 28 sale ratification.

On Aug. 28, 77.9% of owners agreed to the sale. Under Illinois law, at least 75% of owners must ratify a deconversion deal.

Kelly Elmore, attorney at KSN, a Chicago-based condo specialty law firm, said the River City deconversion ranks as one of the more challenging deconversions she has seen. A typical deconversion concludes within about a year, she said.

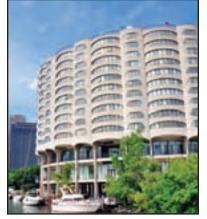


Photo courtesy HaSt

**River City condominiums will become** rental units, after nearly 80% of owners agreed to accept a buyout of er.

Negotiations began in 2015 with offers of \$81.47 million and \$92.2 million, neither of which gained the required 75% owner approval. Owners did accept a \$100 million offer, but the buyers terminated it in May because of the building's condition. Marc Realty and Wolcott Group then countered with a \$90.5 million offer.

"It's not unusual to have the buyer do this after doing their due diligence in inspecting the property," Elmore said. She compared the process to home buying negotiations predicated on discoveries made during in an inspection.

At the time of the offer withdrawal, Michael Wax, owner of one of the River City units, said deferred maintenance had affected the roof's and mechanical systems' conditions. He characterized the three-year process as "frustrating" and feared the buyer had moved on to other properties.

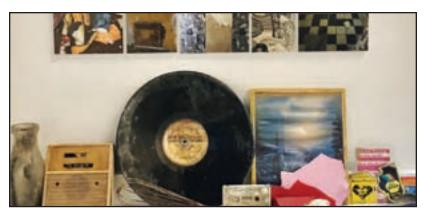
Representatives of Marc Realty and Wolcott Group declined to comment on the ratification.

Deconversions offer an attractive investment, said Doug Imber of Essex Realty. He noted the high demand for housing without a long-term commitment, especially in an area near downtown. He also noted a continued slow condo market.

"A lot of people are attracted to downtown, including young professionals just starting out and those who are older who don't want the same level of responsibility they had in their homes,' Imber said.

That same attraction to rental units, Elmore said, may be why some absentee unit owners resist deconversion. They may prefer renting their condos themselves.

These experts also acknowledge that rental unit values are increasing in the South Loop, where a river walk is emerging. The City broke ground in 2016 for the Riverline project with development partners CMK and Lendlease.



Some of the artifacts found in public housing will become part of exhibits when the National Public Housing Museum opens.

Josh Ellis, a board member of the Greater South Loop Assn., said, "River City is an iconic building, and its transition is natural in the grand scheme of things. The Riverline will involve the construction of multiple buildings, and it will be a mix of condos, apartments, and townhomes. I generally feel it is good for the neighborhood to have a diverse range of residential units that attract those who are single, couples, and families. There are a lot of options.'

–Rick Romano

#### **Public housing** museum moves forward, despite appearances

Even though the former Jane Addams Homes public housing building at 1322 W. Taylor St. remains boarded up, those working on the project have taken steps inside the structure toward making it a museum, explained Lisa Lee, executive director of the National Public Housing Museum.

Workers put up orange plywood in place of the building's windows, which "protects it from the elements," Lee said. They also are preserving "some beautiful wallpaper" and other relics of life in the apartments and removed

"a lot of lead and asbestos. We finished it, and it is a perfectly clean building now.'

"We did not have ownership of the building until spring, so could not do anything" before then, Lee continued. Then the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development deeded the building to the museum, and the Chicago Housing Authority awarded it a 99-year lease for \$1.

Workers also removed a museum sign painted on the exterior bricks, which they will replace with a "coming soon" sign, Lee said. She hopes the museum will open by the end of 2019.

Fundraising, begun eight years ago, continues. "We have \$4.5 million now," Lee said. "We have to raise a total of \$14 million." Summer benefits to raise money for the museum featured Mary J. Blige and Earth, Wind, and Fire, and the organization has received several grants.

Those wanting a preview of the interior can visit an exhibit at the museum's temporary quarters at 625 N. Kingsbury St. "They can see some salvaged artifacts and also get a sense of our future exhibition strategies," Lee said. The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, see www.nphm.org.

-Susan S. Stevens

# Prayer To The Blessed Virgin



Never known to fail.) Ob, most beautiful flower of Mt. Cannel. fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the ea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth Humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without in, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who

gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you or your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted



#### 

### TIF madness results as politicians game the system while public goes about its business

It's a very different political world out there these days, to say the least.

While there was always some corruption and government malfeasance, for much of American history, you voted for whom you thought were the best candidates, and whether your choices won or not, you could be reasonably certain that the Federal, State, or City government would operate well enough that you didn't have to pay a lot of attention until the next election. If you thought things were running well enough you voted for the incumbent or his or her party, and if not you voted for change. Most of the rest of the time, we could focus on our own lives and let our elected officials, people we hired to do a job, do that job.

It is clear that is not the case anymore. Nationally, the unprecedented corruption, farce, and outright meanness in Washington has created a national mood of despair and fear and turned everyone into news addicts. We spend a lot more time worrying about what is happening on Twitter and Facebook and if the world will survive another day. During the last few years in Springfield the situation has been no better, as Illinois went without a budget for two years, and finally got one when enough citizens and activist groups put the pressure on so that politicians became nervous about losing their seats.

Here in the City of Chicago, while we've been going about our daily lives, the politicians, particularly our mayors but also our aldermen, too, have allowed tax increment financing (TIFs) to spin out of control.

As our page one lead article details, Tom Tresser of CivicLab and the TIF Illumination Project has found that more than \$1.4 billion is sitting in the City's TIF accounts, taking away much-needed tax dollars from schools, libraries, and infrastructure and giving Chicago's mayors a slush fund to dole out to favored developers. TIFs were supposed to spur development and construction in blighted areas; instead, the funds often are diverted to affluent areas, resulting in what Nathan Ryan of Grassroots Collaborative calls "a tale of two cities," with TIFs "taking resources away from neighborhoods, especially black and brown communities, and moving that to developers for things like luxury condos and stadiums.

When Tresser asked the City where the \$1.4 billion is going, he was told the funds are "committed" and therefore "confidential." So the City has decided we can't be told where our billions of dollars are going because they are "committed" to something? That's the opposite of TIF transparency; that's TIF madness and malfeasance.

David Merriman of the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs has done a study of TIFs around the country, finding that, "in most cases, TIF has not accomplished the goal of promoting economic development.

TIFs in Chicago collect almost \$500 million a year. If the money went to where it was originally designated instead of to TIFs, with the total budget for Chicago Public Schools for the 2018-19 year at \$3.1 billion, that \$500 million could easily make up the \$300 million more the schools need and that the CPS asked the State government for in July. The total annual budget for the Chicago Public Library system is \$75 million. Imagine what even a part of that \$500 million could do to upgrade CPL structures and computers, to buy new books, to expand hours, and to restore years of personnel cuts. And wouldn't we all like to see the City reopen some of its shuttered mental health clinics, to get the mentally ill off of intersections and out from doorways and under viaducts and into treatment?

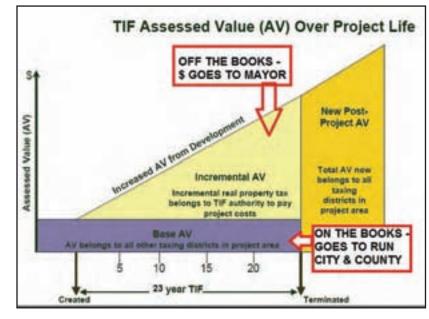
Yet here in Chicago, politicians merrily continue down the TIF trail. So it's up to us as citizens to stop them.

Don't lose sight of the importance of the Nov. 6 gubernatorial and state legislative races, and vote for the candidates whom you believe can clean up the mess in Springfield. But after that, when you turn your attention to the mayoral and aldermanic races coming up in Chicago in February, make sure TIFs are an issue on which you will base your vote.

Merriman offers suggestions on how to clean up TIFs, including allowing governments to opt out of TIFs, therefore retaining funding that should have gone to schools, libraries, and infrastructure in the first place; governmental reviews of TIFs to see if they are actually effective (not happening in Chicago now); and government providing "extensive, easily accessible information about TIF use, revenues, and expenditures" (definitely not happening in Chicago now).

We all need to put pressure on our current elected officials, and on candidates, to follow suggestion's like Merriman's to clean up TIFs. Call them and write to them. Protest. Use social media as a force for public good, and not as a place to have arguments with people you don't agree with. The next mayor needs to be more responsible about collecting and dispensing TIF money, and the aldermen need to oversee and regulate the mayor when he or she does so.

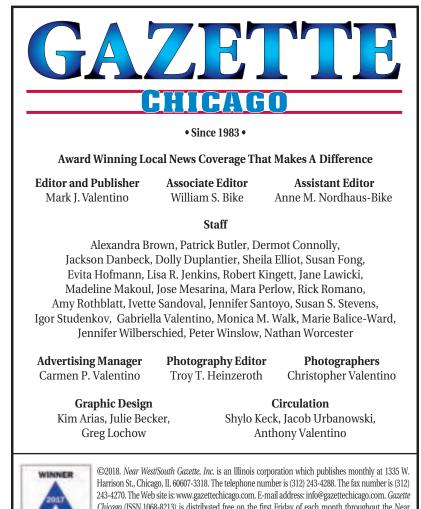
If you think that citizens attempting to have more of an effect is futile,



The chart above, provided by CivicLab and the TIF Illumination Project, shows that over the typical 23-year life of a TIF, the amount going to public uses remains stagnant (in the purple box), while an ever-increasing amount (in the left yellow triangle) is of the books with no transparency and goes to the mayor for pet projects.

look no further than the Tri-Taylor area, where citizens formed the new Tri-Taylor Neighborhood Watch Group, and used social media to help apprehend an alleged burglar.

That's the type of citizen action and use of modern technology we need not only to fight crime, but to fight politicians gaming the system at the City, State, and Federal levels. Demanding more transparency and better use of TIF funds in Chicago would be an excellent start.



Chicago (ISSN 1068-8213) is distributed free on the first Friday of each month throughout the Near West Side/Tri-Taylor, University Village, South Loop, West Loop Gate, West Haven, Bridgeport/Armour Square, Chinatown, Bronzeville, East Pilsen, and Heart of Chicago communities. Advertising rates may

be obtained through the above telephone number or on the Gazette Chicago website.

# *Gutierrez looks at congressional career, local political landscape*

Continued from page 14

work," Gutierrez continued. "You don't need a lawyer in the 4th Congressional District if you want to be reunited with a family member. You want your brother or your mom reunited with you in America, we will take care of it for you. You want to apply for DACA, we have the expertise to get that done.

"But just so you know, 50,000 people have become citizens of the United States through our Congressional office over the past 26 years," Gutierrez explained. "That means that as I leave, 50,000 are mostly registered to vote and participate in our electoral process, and I am proud of that legacy. The more people that vote, the stronger the democracy."

Beyond immigration, what else are you proud of accomplishing?

"Am I proud that now you can go from downtown to Pilsen to the West Side to Cicero on public transit? Sure I am proud of that," he said. "Am I proud that thousands of units of affordable housing have been built? Sure, I am proud of that.

"But let me put it to you this way: as a congressman, you're a doctor," he said. "In Congress, we're all MDs. In this place, if you want to make a mark, you've got to specialize in something. What part are you going to work on? For me, it's the immigration part. There was nobody specializing in immigration, and now there are many. I'm proud of that."

What do you wish you had more time to do?

"More time to organize," he said. "I wish I had more time to talk to people. But I knew it was time. I knew after 26 years it was time for somebody else to do the job."

If Garcia succeeds you, what would be his major challenge?

"I don't look at what his challenge is going to be relative to me," Gutierrez said. "I think about all the wonderful things he would do. He will bring his own creativity, his own priorities. We were in the council together, he's been a state senator, he's a county commissioner, and he ran for mayor. He may be a freshman congressman, but he has profound knowledge of public policy and how you get things done."

Did you support Garcia for mayor when he ran against Rahm Emanuel?

"I did not endorse him about running for mayor," Garcia claimed. "When he decided to run for mayor, I was already committed to Rahm Emanuel. Too late; he entered the mayoral race late. There was a small hiccup. I'm excited that we are working together once again and campaigning together."

What are your thoughts about your daughter, Jessica, running for 30th Ward Alderman?

"It really brings a great sense of joy that your daughter wants to follow you in public service," he said. "It means she sees value and where she wants to commit her life. She is a change agent, a young aggressive change agent. I tell everyone my age not to be afraid of the millennials. We raised them. They have values and ideals. They are going to make this a better place for us. She is independent. She won't be running on any mayoral ticket. She is running on her own."

For more on Gutierrez, log on to https://gutierrez.house.gov.

*Editor's note:* Rep. Luis Gutierrez in September had urged Jesus "Chuy" Garcia to run for mayor in 2019, but Garcia had not made a decision at press time. Multiple inquiries to the congressman's local office to confirm and explain Gutierrez's request to Garcia to run for mayor were not answered. Gutierrez's national spokesperson said the congressional endorsement for Garcia still stands.



Courtesy Office of Rep. Luis Gutierrez at a rally in Washington in support of the DREAM Act, Oct. 5, 2017.



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



2nd District: Beat 215, Tues., Oct. 23, 4500 S. Wabash Ave., Margaret Ford Manor, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 213/224, Wed., Oct. 10, 4058 S. Michigan Ave., St. Elizabeth Church, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 221/223, Tues., Oct. 16, 4314 S. Cottage Grove Ave., King Center, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 222, Tues., Oct. 9, 4434 S. Lake Park Ave., Kennicott Park, 6:30 p.m.; Beats 225/232, Thurs., Oct. 11, 5627 S. Michigan Ave., Coppin A.M.E. Church, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 233, Wed., Oct. 17, 1526 E 55th St., Tissaure Island Foods, 6:30 p.m. Call (312) 747–8366.



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



10th District: Beats 1023/1024, Thurs., Oct. 11, 2730 W. 15th Place, St. Mt. Sinal Hospital, 6 pm.; Beats 1031/1032, Wed., Oct. 17, 2708 S. Pulaski Rd., Taman Library, 6 p.m.; Beat 1034, Tues., Oct. 9, 2700 S. Western Ave., Y.M.C. A. Rauser, 6 p.m.; Beats 1011/1012, Thurs., Nov. 1, 1350 S. Harding Ave., Clair House, 6 p.m. Call (312) 747-7190.



12th District: Beats 1224/1231, Wed., Oct. 10, 1300 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago Policy Academy, 7 p.m.; Beats 1232/1233, Wed., Oct. 24, 1412 S. Blue Island Ave., 12th District Station, 7 p.m.; Beats 1234/1235, Wed., Oct. 17, 1919 S. Ashland Ave., St. Pius V 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.

# Newsbriefs

# Oi named new principal at St. Therese School

A local elementary school with a long record of academic successes has turned to in-school talent for future direction. Lisa Deborah Oi, a veteran teacher and administrator in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago school system, has been named principal of St. Therese's Chinese Catholic School at 247 W. 23rd St.

A search committee, chaired by the Rev. Francis Li, St. Therese's pastor, chose Oi, who most recently served as interim principal. She replaces Phyllis Cavallone-Jurek, who joined the Archdiocese of Chicago's Catholic School system as an administrator.

The 2018-19 school year opened at St. Therese with an enrollment of about 300 pre K through eighth grade students.

In many ways, Oi said, her becoming principal was just the next step in parish involvement that began many years ago.

"I always knew that this was my calling," she said. Even as a teenager, Oi felt she had found a secure place and sense of direction at St. Therese's. Then and now, the school embraced students' history and cultures, offering "a way for them to be very proud," she said. That philosophy helped her then, and she hopes to build on it in her new job.

Oi and her father arrived in Chicago when she was a teen, and she enrolled in the parish school. From the start, Oi felt comfortable with the parish and its school's academics and respect for cultural traditions. That feeling that did not diminish as she moved from the grammar school on to high school and eventually college.

From the beginning, Oi shared hopes with her father that one day she would win a spot on St. Therese's faculty, and he encouraged her ambition. By the time she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Indiana University, her career path was clear, and she joined St. Therese's faculty after graduation. Oi taught for several years



Lisa Deborah Oi has been named new principal at St. Therese Chinese Catholic School.

before being becoming assistant principal six years ago.

Those experiences have been invaluable in her career, she said. Whether meeting with a parent anxious about a child's progress or dealing with a child seeking help and direction while navigating a complicated new experience, Oi said she feels a kinship because she has gone through many of those difficult passages herself. "I've always used my personal journey" to help bond with individual students and their families, especially if they are facing difficult challenges, she added.

St. Therese's development director, Elizabeth Fieweger, described the school as surprising to many, particularly in its diversity—an attribute Oi points to with pride. About 70% of St. Therese's students identify as Asian; the remaining 30% are Pacific Island, Hispanic, bi-racial, or Caucasian heritage.

Fieweger mentioned the school's strong academics and said some of its students have performed in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Youth Symphony and other prestigious programs.

Chicago Public School selective enrollment high schools such as Walter Payton College Prep and Whitney Young High School and selective parochial high schools such as Saint Ignatius College Prep count St. Therese's alums among their student populations, Oi said.

Oi agreed with Fieweger about St. Therese's focus on academics.

The school adheres to Common Core curriculum standards, and in the future administrators hope to expand its language programs.

St. Therese does not have a special education focus, although it serves special needs students needing accommodation, Fiewe-ger said.

Oi said the school has a waiting list of prospective students, and Fieweger said the area around the school is growing.

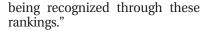
For more information, log on to www.sttheresechicago.org. — Sheila Elliott

# UIC moves up in national rankings

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) moved up in the annual Best Colleges rankings published in September by U.S. News & World Report, climbing to number 61 from 73rd among top public schools in the nation and rising to number 129 from 145th among all national universities.

UIC also placed among the top 15 ethnically diverse national universities.

"The rankings point to the continued importance we place on the academic quality and reputation of our faculty and programs," said UIC Chancellor Michael D. Amiridis. "It is encouraging that our commitment to excellence and achievement nationally are



Factors such as graduation and freshman retention rates and undergraduate academic reputation determine schools' placement in the 2019 edition rankings.

UIC tied with five other public institutions: the Universities of Alabama, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska-Lincoln, and Texas-Dallas.

UIC also ranked among the top 100 for its undergraduate business and engineering programs; ranked as an A+ school for business students among national universities; and was 129th among best value schools in the national universities category.

The magazine's National Universities rankings present data from 312 public, private, and forprofit U.S.-based colleges and universities that offer a full range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees. These colleges also demonstrate commitment to groundbreaking research.

UIC ranks 7th on the Best Values list—just behind Harvard University—in this year's *Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education (WSJ/THE) rankings.* 

UIC also comes in at number 29 among more than 400 U.S. public universities, according to the 2019 ranking.

For the first time, those compiling the rankings analyzed the top 250 universities further to create



UIC ranks among the top ten Best Values, according to the Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education rankings.





a Best Values list, which considers overall ranking, tuition, fees, housing, and federal and institutional aid. UIC came in at number 7—ahead of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Rutgers, and Stanford in the top ten list.

Analysis for the *WSJ/THE* overall rankings bases decisions on 15 factors across four categories: student outcomes, resources, engagement, and environment. It also considers more than 200,000 student survey responses on topics such as class difficulty, ease of collaborating with classmates, and how course material applies to the real world.

#### Significant numbers in Illinois struggle to get enough food

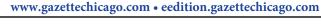
The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and the Heartland Alliance's Social Impact Research Center paint a picture of households and children struggling with food security in Illinois. The Illinois Hunger Coalition (IHC) is using this recent research to inform and expand its work to #EndHunger-Now and end hunger's underlying causes, especially in light of threats to food assistance.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) works to lift individuals and families out of poverty, offering an important lifeline for individuals.

"The data from FRAC and the Social Impact Research Center quantifies what the IHC has seen in its grassroots work in the past year," said Diane Doherty, executive director of the Illinois Hunger Coalition. "The numbers show that weakening SNAP would only serve to exacerbate the problem of hunger faced

erbate the problem of hunger faced by children and hard-working families both throughout the state and nationwide." Children are affected signifi-

cantly by hunger and food hardship. FRAC found that, in Illinois overall, 17.4% of households with children struggled with food hardship in 2016-2017, 1.4 times higher than households without children. Illinois's overall food hardship household rate, 14.0%, did not improve from 2015-2016, highlighting a significant need to keep SNAP strong. The Social Impact Research Center found that 17.3% of Illinois children, more





FRAC found that, in Illinois overall, 17.4% of households with children struggled with food hardship.

than 500,000, struggle with food insecurity.

Also, while 14% of Illinois households struggle with food hardship, the research shows that only 13.3% of households statewide participate in SNAP. The IHC's work in SNAP outreach and enrollment works to address this gap by traveling to community colleges, universities, community-based organizations (CBOs), households across rural Illinois counties, and CBOs across Cook County and the City Colleges of Chicago to inform, educate, and enroll individuals and households in food assistance.

The IHC's efforts to expand SNAP eligibility to approximately 40,000 low-income Illinois college students succeeded this year when both houses in the Illinois General Assembly passed SB 351, the College Hunger Bill, and Governor Bruce Rauner signed it in July.

The IHC also will be empower and register voters in low-income communities on the South Side of Chicago, where an average of 38% of households participate in SNAP, to advocate for programs that provide a positive impact and support policies that improve their communities.

The Illinois Hunger Coalition, founded in 1988, seeks to #Endhungernow by eliminating hunger's causes through community organizing, advocating for progressive policy, and public education.

The FRAC report, How Hungry Is America? provides data on food hardship — the inability to afford enough food— nationally, for every state, the District of Columbia, and 108 metropolitan statistical areas across the country. The report is based on 337,690 interviews in 2016–2017. The Social Impact Research Center's 2018 Illinois Poverty Report delves into Chicago community and Illinois township and county data to present findings on poverty and income, food insecurity, employment, and several other factors related to health and well-being.

For more information, log on to ilhunger.org or call the Hunger Hotline at 1 (800) 359-2163.

#### Plan Commission ok's redevelopment of Salvation Army site

The Chicago Plan Commission on June 21 approved Cedar Street Commercial's plan to rehabilitate the former Salvation Army Freedom Center complex, located at 1515 W. Monroe St., as part of its redevelopment of a 3.18 acre plot mostly bounded by west Monroe Street, south Laflin Street, west Adams Street, and south Ashland Avenue.

Cedar Street Commercial initially planned to include 288 residential units in the development but has reduced that to 260 units with nine parking spots. The project, slated for completion by mid-2020, also will provide ground floor commercial space and private green space.

The proposal has stirred opposition among residents, some of whom attended the June 21 meeting to convey their displeasure. Brian Ferber of Neighbors of West Loop and May Toy of the Skinner Park Advisory Council came to express the objections they articulated as co-authors of a letter to 28th Ward Alderman Jason C. Ervin on June 15.

As its major concerns, the letter cited "density with respect to Phase 1 (Part A), which did not include any of the surface parking lots or building at Adams & Ashland," "lack of on-site parking," "significant concerns about traffic safety and congestion on Monroe St.," and "lack of public green space."

In the letter and subsequent conversation, Ferber emphasized his concern with the absence of a driveway to alleviate the congestion from the development on Monroe Street, which he stated already sees heavy congestion much of the time. Neighbors also want the redevelopment to include more green space and a public dog run and voiced concerns about potential noise from events the complex may host in its green space.

Like Ferber, May Toy attended the June 21 meeting and raised objections to Cedar Street Commercial's plan and how the company presented it.

"I also think that Cedar Street's development will have a negative impact on Skinner Park and the community as a whole without making any efforts to work with the community to mitigate its impact or provide any community benefit," said Toy.

She stated Cedar Street Commercial claimed Phase I of the complex will not have parking, based on the company's assertion that Chicago landmarks are not required to have parking.

According to chapter 17-10 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, "No additional off-street parking or loading spaces are required for rehabilitation or reuse of an official Chicago Landmark building." As of press time, the Chicago Department of Planning and Development did not provide additional detail on the legal basis for Cedar Street Commercial's alleged claims.

Alderman Ervin, Cedar Street Companies, and developer Alex Samoylovich did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

For more information from Neighbors of West Loop, log on to neighborsofwestloop.com. For the Skinner Park Advisory Council, log on to www.skinnerpark.org.

—Nathan Worcester



Photo courtesy Neighbors of West Loop

Cedar Street Commercial plans to redevelop the former Salvation Army Freedom Center complex into 260 residential units, despite neighbors' concerns.



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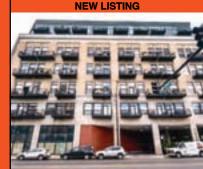


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\$1,200,000

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