‘This is your block’

Police stand with neighbors against gangs

By Tim Hadac

A handful of West Elsdon neighbors who say they’ve sometimes felt alone in fighting gang intimidation, were joined by dozens of police officers, their alderman, a Protestant minister, three Catholic nuns and several crime fighters from other neighborhoods earlier this week.

Even while short-handed—due to a barricade situation in the 3900 block of West 63rd Street—CPD Commander Brian McDermott—who was at the barricade scene—CPD Sergeant Thomas Gorman told the assembled neighbors that police are “aware of the gangbangers are out here and they will not be intimidating you…this is not their block.” This is your block.”

The reputed gang members on the block “have our undivided attention now, for your protection,” he added.

The several young men who allegedly have been causing a nuisance were nowhere to be seen, neighbors said—but several dozen of their family members and friends were on hand in what appeared to be a show of defiance.

They sat on the front steps of a two-flat and spilled onto a front lawn and public pathway—many glaring at the neighbors who had asked for police protection. Nearly to a person, they refused to applaud for police when others did—and most refused to accept placards showing support for first responders.

Several also declined to talk with a reporter, but one was overheard denying that a problem exists and claiming that the controversy all stems from anti-Latino bigotry of several white people on the block.

But about half of the neighbors complaining about the reputed gang members, are themselves Hispanic men and women.

“This is about what’s right and what’s wrong—nothing more,” said Ester Flores, who lives near 57th Place and Hamlin. “These gangbangers can hide behind [allegations of bigotry] all they want. But those of us who live here know better. I moved here from Brighton Park to get away from gangs, and I’ll tell you I’m through running. The police are right. This is our neighborhood. These gangbangers have to go.”

According to several people on the block, the several young men causing trouble typically hang out on the front steps of a two-flat, throwing gang signs at passersby—but rapidly retreating to their back yard when police are called.

Bob Stanek, a lifelong Southwest Sider who with his wife, Mary, has been

Celebrating play area upgrades at Dan Ryan Woods

Preckwinkle hails new stairs, play area

By Tim Hadac

Southwest Siders have several new amenities to enjoy at Dan Ryan Woods, 87th and Western. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and other officials gathered last week at the historic, 257-acre forest preserve to celebrate the installation of new exercise stairs near the sledging hill—as well as a multi-faceted “nature play” area, where children of all ages can make “thunder” or make music, climb netting, lounge in a leaning hammock or look out over the landscape in a treehouse.

Young people in the Forest Preserves’ Youth Programs were among the first to test the new area.

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Man dies in Gage Park pool

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EDWARD “ACE” BOROWCYZ

Edward “Ace” Borowczyz, age 93, of Broadview, formerly of Naperville, passed away July 28. Army Veteran.
Beloved husband of the late Theresa C. Borowczyz (nee Kopeck); father of Paul (Linda); dear grandson of Konrad (the late Sophie) Borowczyz, Sophie (the late Julius) Padol; uncle of many nieces and nephews.
Visitation was held August 1 and August 2 at Hitzeman Funeral Home, Ltd., 9445 West 31st Street, Brookfield. Funeral was held August 2 at St. Louise de Marillac Church, La Grange Park (Sandi) Mass. Interment Resurrection Cemetery, Justice. Information 708-485-2000.

IRENA CACHRO

Irena Cachro (nee Kucharska), age 73, of Palos Hills, former resident of Chicago, West Elsdon community, passed away July 28.
Beloved wife of Stanislaw Cachro; loving mother of Krystyna (Derek) Pyrzanowski and Irene (Cory Zadow); fond sister of Roman (Bogumiła) Kucharski, Maria (Jan) Pietras and Jan (Maria) Kucharski; fond sister-in-law of Helena (Wyslaw) Szymankiewicz, Maria (Alejzy) Lodzinski, Zofia (late Bro) and Jan (Maria) Kucharski; sister-in-law of the late Joseph P. Kelly, Sr. and Jan (Maria) Kucharski; fond uncle of many nieces and nephews.
Irena was a member of Kolo Nr. 40 Bielany Dunajec. She was a retired coach cleaner and was a member of KAMHA.
Visitation was held August 3 at Damkaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7681 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. Visitation was held July 31, Service and Time of Remembrance were held at the funeral home. Cremation rites to be accorded.

JOSEPH P. KELLY

Joseph P. Kelly, age 71 of Chicago, passed away August 1. Retired Captain, Chicago Police Department 9th District. Loving brother of Nancy (Jim) Ferencez, Mike (Debbie), Susan (the late Jack) McCann and the late Eddie (Nancy); beloved son of the late Joseph P. Kelly, Sr. (retired Lieutenant CFD) and Jean Kelly (nee Phillips). High school sweetheart and soul mate Carol (nee Campagna); father to Brian (Lori) and Kevin; loving grandfather to Gianna, Ryan and Claire.
Visitation was held July 30 until time of Prayer at the funeral home. Interment to be held privately.

HOWARD F. KUZELKA

Howard F. Kuzelka, age 85, passed away July 28. Beloved husband of Dorothy (nee Dornicki); loving father of Jim, Thomas, John, Brian (Indy), Larry (Loretta) and the late Richard (Cindy); fond uncle of many nieces and nephews.
Visitation was held July 28 at Foran Funeral Home, 7300 W. Archer Avenue, 55th St. West of Harlem. Visitation was held July 30 until time of Prayers at the funeral home, then proceed to St. Renee Church for a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

DAVID PETRUSHKEVICH

David J. Petrushkevich, age 67, of Chicago, Clearying community, passed away July 29.
Beloved husband of the late Susan (nee Jalloway); loving father of Sara (Dave) Parkinson, Lea Petrushkevich (Javier) and Anthony Petrushkevich; proud grandfather of light of Ashley, Jennifer, Jonathan, Ava, Emma and Olivia.
Visitation was held August 5 until time of Mass at St. Joseph Church, Summit. Interment Resurrection Cemetery.

KIMBERLY “KIM” S. RAYMER

Kimberly “Kim” S. Raymer (nee Long), age 58, passed away July 28. Loving mom of Megan Raymer, Marissa (Corey Zadow); dear granddaughters of Skyler and Zoey; cherished daughter of the late James and Anna Long; dear step-daughter of the late Judy Long; dear sister of Rodney (Wanda), Greg (Erma), Jeff, Penny (Terry) and the late Cathy. Also survived by nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.
Visitation was held August 1 at Damkaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7681 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. Funeral was held August 2, Funeral Service and Time of Remembrance were held at the funeral home. Information from 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

JOAN VACCARO

Joan Vaccaro, age 74, of Berwyn, passed away July 24. Beloved daughter of the late John and late Josephine (nee Misercordia) Vaccaro; loving sister of John Vaccaro. Joan will be missed by her many cousins and friends.
Visitation was held July 28 at Foran Funeral Home, 7300 W. Archer Ave. (55th St. just West of Harlem). Visitation was held July 30 until time of Prayers at the funeral home, then proceed to St. Renee Church.
Cops seek two missing women
By Joan Hadac

Two Southwest Side women were reported missing earlier this week by Chicago Police, in two apparently unrelated community alerts.

Melivia Robinson, 74, was said to be missing from the Hearst area—specifically, 46th and LeClaire.

Robinson is a black woman who stands 5-foot-1 and weighs about 120 pounds, with brown eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion.

When last seen, she was wearing a pink jacket, a red sweater. She was also last seen driving a white, two-door Honda with Illinois plate number Q868314.

Patricia "Patty" Burden, 55, was reported missing from the 6100 block of South Kolin.

Burden is a white woman who stands 5-foot-1 and weighs about 120 pounds, with brown eyes, brown hair and a light complexion.

When last seen, she was wearing a black T-shirt with the words "Jesus is my Superhero" on the front, blue jeans, black eog sandals and possibly a red cardigan sweater. She was also last seen driving a white, two-door Honda with Illinois plate number Q868314.

Police are seeking the driver of a Chevy Equinox who crashed into the side of the Panda Express restaurant at 65th and Cicero late last week. Police said the driver was headed east on 65th Street when he suddenly switched directions and made a right turn to go south on Cicero. He then lost control of the vehicle. He bolted before police arrived. A woman passenger in the car suffered minor injuries but refused medical care. Those with information to share are asked to call Area Central detectives at (312) 747-8382. – Supplied photo

Man dies in Gage Park pool
By Joan Hadac

Almost exactly a year after a one-year-old toddler died in the Gage Park swimming pool, the water claimed the life of another person.

Francisco Martinez, 56, drowned at about 6 p.m. Saturday, July 27, in the body of water at 55th and Western. According to published reports, Martinez was pulled from the pool and taken by ambulance to the University of Chicago Medical Center. He was initially listed in critical condition, but later died.

The Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office has been ruled the death an accident.

Chicago Park District officials this week refused comment.

Fifteenth Ward Ald. Raymond Lopez publicly asked, “Where was the park staff and why was nobody able prevent this unbelievable tragedy?”

Lopez told the Greater Southwest News-Herald on Monday that he is scheduling a meeting with Park District officials to be updated on the situation and find out what is being done to prevent a repeat of the tragedy.

The pool has a maximum depth of six feet and is 48 yards long.

Woman threatening suicide taken to hospital
From staff reports

A woman who police said was suicidal locked herself in a bathroom in a condominium in the 3900 block of West 66th Street early Monday evening.

Unsure if the incident was a hostage situation, police dispatched a SWAT team to the condo, located in the old West Lawn State Bank building.

The incident lasted more than an hour, snarled traffic and prevented some police from attending an outdoor roll call at 57th Place and Hamlin.

Police later said the woman was apprehended without incident and was transported to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

Late-night crash at Panda Express

Police are seeking the driver of a Chevy Equinox who crashed into the side of the Panda Express restaurant at 65th and Cicero last week. Police said the driver was headed east on 65th Street when he suddenly switched directions and made a right turn to go south on Cicero. He then lost control of the vehicle. He bolted before police arrived. A woman passenger in the car suffered minor injuries but refused medical care. Those with information to share are asked to call Area Central detectives at (312) 747-8382. – Supplied photo

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Police later said the woman was apprehended without incident and was transported to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation.
**Man shot, killed at Brighton Park construction site**

Police are investigating the shooting death of a 51-year-old Tinley Park man whose body was discovered in a construction yard in the 3300 block of South California at 12:54 a.m. Friday, July 26, during a traffic stop.

**Cops investigate pedestrian death**

Police are investigating the death of a 62-year-old man who was struck and killed as he walked across Columbus Avenue near California at 5:03 p.m. Wednesday, July 31.

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**Convicted sex offender arrested**

A 31-year-old convicted sex offender was charged with failing to register with authorities after he was arrested in the 3200 block of West 66th Place at 12:45 p.m. Saturday, July 20. Tariq Muhammad also was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. According to the Illinois State Police, Muhammad sexually assaulted a 14-year-old child who was age 19.

**Bust Orland Park man on drug charge**

A 23-year-old Back of the Yards man was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of cannabis after he was arrested during a traffic stop in the 3900 block of South Wolcott at 6:18 p.m. Sunday, July 28. Nathan L. Edwards, of the 5000 block of South Wolcott, also was cited for driving a suspended license, operating an uninsured vehicle and failure to wear seat belts.

**Bust Yards man on drug charge**

A 32-year-old Back of the Yards man was charged with driving while using a cellphone, during a traffic stop in the 6600 block of West 64th Street at 5:40 p.m. Saturday, July 20. Pamela Sunitkin, of the 7000 block of West 64th Street, also was cited for driving a suspended license, operating an uninsured vehicle and failure to wear seat belts.

**Arrest woman in stolen vehicle**

A 31-year-old man was charged with criminal trespass to a vehicle after she was arrested in the 9200 block of South Artesian, 9:40 p.m. Tuesday, July 23. Janelle E. Hampton, of the 400 block of South Stanton Street, also was arrested for obstructing identification after she allegedly gave police a false name.

**Claim gang member was loitering**

A 21-year-old Auburn Gresham man was charged with gang loitering after he was arrested in the 7000 block of South Artesian at 10:12 p.m. Tuesday, July 23. Joshua Turner, of the 8500 block of South Elizabeth, also was charged with aggravated assault after he allegedly threatened a police officer. According to public records, Turner was arrested twice for gang loitering in 2017, near 72nd and Artesian.

**Charge Clearing motorist with using cellphone**

A 59-year-old Clearing woman was charged with using a cellphone while driving, during a traffic stop in the 6600 block of West 64th Street at 5:40 p.m. Saturday, July 20. Pamela Sunitkin, of the 7000 block of West 64th Street, also was cited for driving a suspended license, operating an uninsured vehicle and failure to wear seat belts.

**Bust Yards man on drug charge**

A 32-year-old Back of the Yards man was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of cannabis after he was arrested during a traffic stop in the 3900 block of South Wolcott at 6:18 p.m. Sunday, July 28. Nathan L. Edwards, of the 5000 block of South Wolcott, also was cited for driving a suspended license.

**Case made on revoked license charge**

A 41-year-old Hornwood man was charged with driving on a revoked license after he was arrested at 12:02 p.m. Sunday, July 14 in the 2400 block of West 35th Street. Justino Teulta, of the 2900 block of North Keeler, also was cited for driving an unregistered vehicle, failure to display a city sticker and failure to wear seat belts.

**Bust man on revoked-license charge**

A 41-year-old Hornwood man was charged with driving on a revoked license after he was arrested at 12:02 p.m. Sunday, July 14 in the 2400 block of West 35th Street. Justino Teulta, of the 2900 block of North Keeler, also was cited for driving an unregistered vehicle, failure to display a city sticker and failure to wear seat belts.

**Charge man with domestic battery**

A 20-year-old man was charged with domestic battery after he was arrested at 65th and Kedzie at 12:45 a.m. Monday, July 29. Christopher D. Travis, of the 1600 W. 71st Street, was apprehended by police responding to a person in distress call. He allegedly hit a 28-year-old woman. According to public records, Travis was arrested and charged with criminal trespass to a vehicle in July 2017, near 74th and Racine.

**Claim elderly man stole from church**

A 75-year-old Bright Park man was charged with three counts of theft from a place of worship after he was arrested at his home in the 4400 block of South Marshfield at 12:54 a.m. Wednesday, July 24. Robert Damasaukas was apprehended without incident.

**Arrested again for retail theft**

A 23-year-old Roseland man was charged with retail theft after he was arrested at the Jewel-Osco at 3644 N. Archer at 10:15 a.m. Monday, July 29. David Semani, of the 9700 block of West Ravinia, allegedly stole merchandise. According to public records, Semani has been arrested four times by CPD since 2018, on charges that included possession of a controlled substance.

**Claiming man hid his identity from police**

A 27-year-old South Side man was charged with obstructing identification after he was arrested in the 3400 block of South Ashland at 6:18 p.m. Sunday, July 28. Romeris R. Robinson, of the 3700 block of South Princeton, also was wanted two warrants, according to police, who declined to say what. Robinson was wanted for or what jurisdiction the warrants came from. According to public records, Robinson has been arrested five times by CPD since 2014, on charges that included forgery and driving on a revoked license.

**Claim gang member was loitering**

A 21-year-old Auburn Gresham man was charged with gang loitering after he was arrested in the 7000 block of South Artesian at 10:12 p.m. Tuesday, July 23. Joshua Turner, of the 8500 block of South Elizabeth, also was charged with aggravated assault after he allegedly threatened a police officer. According to public records, Turner was arrested twice for gang loitering in 2017, near 72nd and Artesian.

**Charge Chicago Lawn with cannabis possession**

A 20-year-old Chicago Lawn man was charged with possession of cannabis after he was arrested in the 6500 block of West 66th Street at 4:04 p.m. Thursday, July 18. Rodrigo Bautista, of the 6400 block of South Wolcott, was apprehended by police responding to a “shots fired” call. His vehicle met the description of a suspect vehicle, according to police, who declined to say what. Robinson was wanted for or what jurisdiction the warrants came from. According to public records, Robinson has been arrested five times by CPD since 2014, on charges that included forgery and driving on a revoked license.
Seafood restaurant to try its luck in Palos Hills

A Mediterranean seafood restaurant is coming to the former Bertucci’s location at 10331 S. Roberts Road in Palos Hills. Mayor Gerald Bennett said a new owner bought the property earlier this year and took out a business license for a Mediterranean restaurant. At the time he didn’t know the name but said he thought it might be open by mid-August.

There has been some landscaping and construction going on at the rear of the 2,000-square-foot building. A sign went up recently advertising the Sea Catch restaurant. Bertucci’s closed in 2016. Reopened under the same owner as Bertucci’s Mediterranean Taverna in December 2016 and closed again in March 2018.

A deal to buy the property fell through later in 2018 and it had been for sale since. It was listed as a turn-key operation for $399,000.

Pete’s Fresh Market building Lemont store

Pete’s Fresh Market, a specialty grocery store based on Chicago’s Southwest Side, has started construction on its newest store in the Lemont Plaza, which is owned by GK Development.

Pete’s is planning a 26,876-square-foot store at 1100 State St. in the former Chipain’s Fresh Market, which closed in early 2017 after 29 years.

Pete’s will feature ethnic and specialty foods, handpicked organic and conventional produce, grab-and-go prepared meals and full-service bakery, bakery, high-end deli and meat department with in-house butchers.

“Lemont Plaza is located in one of the fastest-growing communities in Chicago’s southwest suburbs,” said Garo Khodlian, president of GK Development. “Situated at the intersection of State Street and 127th Street, it is a premier local shopping destination, and we are pleased to add this high-quality, regional market favorite to Lemont Plaza for the area to enjoy.”

Lemont Plaza merchants now include Ace Hardware, Dollar Tree, Dotty’s Café, El Burrito Jr., Good Sister, The Growth of Community, Pete’s Fresh Market and United Cleaners.

Pete’s is slated to open this fall.

Pete’s Fresh Market was founded in the early 1970s as a small, full-service produce stand on the south side of Lemont Plaza.

Additional south suburban stores are planned for Oak Lawn, New Lenox and Matteson.

West Suburban Chamber to welcome teachers

The West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry is proud to celebrate 54 years of one of our community’s most valuable assets—our teachers and administrators.

This year the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry will honor School District 101 in Western Springs for its commitment to supporting our business and engaging students at the youngest ages in basic business discussions and activities. D101 is recognized for providing excellent work and with many local organizations in the region to be a truly collaborative community partner.

The morning will also feature a special presentation by The LeaderShop of La Grange as well as a raffle and resource bags for all new teachers. All sponsors have the option of placing business items into the bags.

The breakfast will be held from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, at the LaGrange Country Club at 620 S. Brainard Ave. in LaGrange.

Admission is $40 per person or one teacher sponsor.

For information or to buy tickets, visit wsscci.org.

New funeral director at Hitzeman Funeral Home

Hitzeman Funeral Home Ltd. in Brookfield announced earlier this year that Taylor Sobol is its newly licensed funeral director.

Sobol started her career with Hitzeman as a student in November 2016. She worked part time, completed her studies, graduated magna cum laude and was in the top 10% of her class at Worsham College of Mortuary Science.

She was a member of Pi Sigma Eta, National Mortuary Honors Fraternity and a recipient of the Restorative Art Award.

She is a licensed insurance provider and has helped many of our families during the pre-arrangement and pre-funding process, arrangement consultations, visitations and funeral services. She has played an instrumental role launching our Grief Support Group and is our grief coordinator for the program. She will continue with these responsibilities and much more.

Taylor lives in Lyons and grew up in the LaGrange area and attended Lyons Township High School.

If you see a new business in town or wonder what happened to an old favorite, drop me a line at bobbong@hotmail.com. You can track business openings and closings at http://bobbongbusiness.com/
Still waiting for Madigan to see the light

When Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan (D-Chicago) announced in February of 2018 that he’d fired Kevin Quinn, the brother of Madigan’s alderman and political general, he said he made the decision because of Quinn’s “inappropriate conduct” with Hampton, whom he called a “courageous woman.” Hampton had come forward with allegations of sexual harassment by Quinn and retaliation by Madigan.

But Madigan also said at the time that Quinn had failed to “exercise the political judgment I expect of those affiliated with my political organizations and the Office of the Speaker.”

In other words, Madigan was making it clear that loyalty goes well beyond merely showing up day and working hard and meeting or exceeding goals. Loyalty, which is a trait prized most highly by Madigan, also means not doing anything that could get the boss into trouble or bring discredit on the organization.

Quinn had worked for Madigan’s organization in one form or another for about 20 years. He was also an alderman over a life jacket, or so we thought.

Several House colleagues, starting in the fall of 2018 and continuing into the spring of 2019, a group of loyal Madigan capos wrote checks to Kevin Quinn totaling $10,000, according to a Chicago Tribune report published last month.

Madigan may have expressed public contrition in 2018, but I know for a fact (because I’ve argued this point with them) that some members of his organization have privately never forgiven Hampton for coming forward. She, in some minds, is the disloyal one for admitting Madigan’s dirty laundry in public.

By extension, Kevin Quinn is the victim who needed their help. He had been publicly kicked out of the kingdom. He had no job and no prospects and was going through a very bitter divorce. So, they stepped up with a little pin money for “their guy.” Maybe it was to help him pay child support, but his soon to be ex-wife claims he has shorted her on child support.

This behavior is not an isolated incident and is precisely the sort of behavior that gets people into trouble or bring disrepute on the organization. It’s not exercising proper political judgment. He could have easily said the stuff.

This behavior is not an isolated incident and is precisely the sort of behavior that gets people into trouble or bring disrepute on the organization. It’s not exercising proper political judgment. He could have easily said the stuff.

Or, worst of all, Madigan knew about the “help” and either didn’t say anything or even worse, didn’t do anything. They shrugged it off. They wrote that off as jealousy.

I was watching the seventh season of Orange is the New Black, a series on Netflix about women in prison. It was a great show that explored a lot of issues fairly. But this season took an ugly turn where they injected the issue of undocumented immigrants into the mix. All of the illegals detained are angels, and all of the police and ICE agents are cruel, vicious and inhuman. Nowhere are the stories of drug traffickers illegally entering the country, butchering their own people and committing all kinds of crimes.

So, it really isn’t about the issues like the Civil War statues, I guess. It isn’t about understanding racism, or even the undocumented immigrants who live in this country. It’s just that today, we have a lot of activists who don’t care about civil boundaries on either side and who would use a statue as a bludgeon to beat another American to death. It’s about presenting one selfish group with columnists and pundits trash me for writing the “ridiculous” story for the Chicago Sun-Times.

Well, no. That was September 1987, Harold Washington was Chicago’s mayor, and there were many more important issues to take on.

Who would take a piece of history and turn it into a propagandist controversy on race? Ald. Edward M. Burke, the only white alderman who recognized the reality of the seal story for African Americans, didn’t want to just push it aside. Burke was a historian, one of Chicago’s best. He proposed changing the city’s records regarding the seal’s meaning. Burke were not allies, but they wanted what was best. Burke was a quiet man, Burke seemed to be more civilized than the wild rancor and hate we have today. Washington, Shaw and Burke were not allies, but they wanted what was best for the city.

Race politics and issues over the past two decades has become extremely personal. It seems the rhetoric has become more violent.

The media is fueling the issue in a way it never did before. One major cause is social media, where everyone people suddenly become political commentators, historians, Columnists and or Judge Judy’s. That is fueling the extreme racist activism, like the Facebookers sharing images of The Squad, four elected women leading the hate-Trump movement in Congress. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ayanna Pressley, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. They have some good issues but when Trump openly calls the President a “pathetic cretin,” you know the whole thing has been dragged into the lowest depths of the gutter by irresponsible on both sides.

I was watching the seventh season of Orange is the New Black. A series on Netflix about women in prison. It was a great show that explored a lot of issues fairly. But this season took an ugly turn where they injected the issue of undocumented immigrants into the mix. All of the illegals detained are angels, and all of the police and ICE agents are cruel, vicious and inhuman. Nowhere are the stories of drug traffickers illegally entering the country, butchering their own people and committing all kinds of crimes.

So, it really isn’t about the issues like the Civil War statues, I guess. It isn’t about understanding racism, or even the undocumented immigrants who live in this country. It’s just that today, we have a lot of activists who don’t care about civil boundaries on either side and who would use a statue as a bludgeon to beat another American to death. It’s about presenting one selfish group with columnists and pundits trash me for writing the “ridiculous” story for the Chicago Sun-Times.

Well, no. That was September 1987, Harold Washington was Chicago’s mayor, and there were many more important issues to take on.

Who would take a piece of history and turn it into a propagandist controversy on race? Ald. Edward M. Burke, the only white alderman who recognized the reality of the seal story for African Americans, didn’t want to just push it aside. Burke was a historian, one of Chicago’s best. He proposed changing the city’s records regarding the seal’s meaning. Burke were not allies, but they wanted what was best. Burke seemed to be more civilized than the wild rancor and hate we have today. Washington, Shaw and Burke were not allies, but they wanted what was best for the city.

Race politics and issues over the past two decades has become extremely personal. It seems the rhetoric has become more violent.

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Dancers bring culture to Southwest Side

From cute pre-schoolers just starting out in dance to accomplished professional dancers, several dozen artists brought a bouquet of culture to the Southwest Side last Saturday, to a packed community room at the Clearing Branch Library. Presented by Boitsov Classical Ballet, the performance was enthusiastically received by an audience ranging in age from toddlers to the elderly. Joining students from Boitsov were students from MainStage Academy of Dance, dancers from the BrayBallet Company, classical pianist Alexander Pasternak and Cheryl Barnes, a Boitsov alumna and faculty member of the Westside Leadership Academy Theater Guild. The entire production was under the direction of Madame Elizabeth Boitsov, an accomplished, internationally acclaimed artist whose academy is located in Garfield Ridge. — Greater Southwest News-Herald photos by Joan Hadac
A Family Owned Business Providing Over 60 Years Of Dependable Service To Satisfied Customers
Red Stars keep rolling

Kerr scores league-leading 12th goal, Boyd notches clean sheet

By Jason Maholy
Sports Editor

Astronomically speaking, a white star is hotter than a red one.

And the Red Stars are white hot. With four straight wins and five in their past six games, the Stars are within two points of first place in the NWSL as they head into the season’s home stretch.

The latest victory was a 2-0 triumph over Utah on Aug. 3 at SeatGeek Stadium. The Red Stars are now 8-5-2 (27 pts) with nine games remaining in the regular season.

Forward Sam Kerr started the scoring in the fifth minute with her league-leading 12th goal of the season, and Brooke Elby added some insurance in the 85th minute with her second career goal.

Goalkeeper Emily Boyd made several key saves, including two at close range, to notch her fourth clean sheet.

Kerr got things rolling early after receiving a cross from Casey Short. Royals goalkeeper Nicole Barnhart made a nice save, but Kerr pounced on the rebound and put it in for a 1-0 lead. The goal marked the eight time this season the Red Stars have scored inside the first 15 minutes of a match, and they’ve done so in three of their past four games.

Utah’s best chances to score were two opportunities came within four minutes of one another. In the 72nd minute, the Royals’ Amy Rodriguez shot at close range, but Boyd stretched high, and just enough to tip the ball over the crossbar.

Then, in the 76th minute, Boyd again denied the equalizer when she made a great save on a point-blank shot by Gunnhildur Jonsdottir, Utah midfielder Veronica Boquete got the rebound, but a wall of Red Stars defenders blocked her attempt and the follow-up by Jonsdottir.

Elby’s goal less than 10 minutes later was the dagger. Barnhart deflected a shot by Savannah McCaskill, and Elby was there for the rebound and fired it in essentially to put the game away.

The Red Stars will take on the Washington Spirit at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10 at the Maryland SoccerPlex.

Red Stars Notes

Elby’s first career goal came earlier this season in a 3-0 win against Reign FC.

Danielle Colaprico made her return to the Chicago starting 11. The midfielder made the third most passes on the team and completed 90% of them, including an 85% completion rate on Utah’s side of the field.

Naperville native Casey Short co-led the team in tackles (3) and interceptions (2), and outright led in clearances (6). Her cross in the 5th minute of the match set up Sam Kerr’s game-opening goal.

Four Red Stars Honored

Sam Kerr, Casey Short, Vanessa DiBernardo and Sarah Gorden were named to the NWSL’s Team of the Month for July.

DiBernardo was during the month directly involved in three goals in four games in July. She scored an 85% completion rate on passes, including a pass of the ball over the crossbar.

In the 5th minute of the match set up Sam Kerr’s game-opening goal.

Kerr scored two goals and had one assist in four games in July. She scored the game-winning goal against North Carolina, and the following week was involved in half the goals scored.

The Red Stars’ Sam Kerr and Julie Ertz are among FIFA’s 12 nominees for Best Women’s Player of 2019.

Ertz was an integral part of the U.S. Women’s National Team squad that went on to win its second-consecutive World Cup. In international competitions, she was directly involved in 15 goals last year, scoring eight and assisting on seven more.

One of those goals came in the USWNT’s second group stage game against Chile after she made her trademarked run to the near post off a corner kick.

Ertz was also a key player for the Chicago Red Stars. She captained the side to their fourth consecutive NWSL Playoff appearance en route to a spot in the NWSL Best XI for the 2018 season.

Kerr made history for both club and country in 2018. With her four-goal performance for the Australian national team in a World Cup group stage match against Jamaica, the Aussie captain became the first-ever player born outside of the U.S. to score more than three goals in a game. Kerr scored five goals in the tournament and finished fourth in the Golden Boot race.

Kerr’s scoring ability wasn’t limited to the Matildas, as Kerr reached historic milestones in the NWSL with the Chicago Red Stars. She became the first player in league history to reach 50 goals after scoring a hat-trick last July. Her 16 goals and four assists in 19 games led Kerr to a second-consecutive NWSL Golden Boot Award and a place alongside teammate Ertz in the league’s Best XI for 2018.

The winner of the award will be revealed at The Best FIFA Football Awards show in Milan on Sept. 23. Fans have a say in who the three finalists will be with a fan vote which will be equally weighted alongside the voted of journalists, national team coaches, and captains. To vote visit fifa.com/the-best-fifa-football-awards/best-fifa-womens-player/.

Red Stars defender Julie Ertz is one of two Red Stars, the other being Sam Kerr, who are up for FIFA Women’s Player of the Year.

-Kerr, Ertz up for Best Player Award

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Red Stars defender Julie Ertz is one of two Red Stars, the other being Sam Kerr, who are up for FIFA Wom-
A first for the Chicago Fire

Men in Red finally win one on the road

By Jason Maholy
Sports Editor

With their backs firmly against the proverbial wall, the Fire may as well consider every remaining match this season a playoff game.

With their chances to qualify for the postseason slim at best, the Men in Red are playing for pride and the chance to be a spoiler to other teams’ postseason hopes.

They got the final quarter of the season off to a strong start by doing something they hadn’t done in 2019 – win a game on the road – in a 1-0 win over Houston at BBVA Stadium on July 31.

The effort was the Fire’s sixth clean sheet of the season, tied for fourth most in the MLS, and prevented the Dynamo from closing the gap in their own quest for the post-season.

Goalkeeper Kenneth Kronholm made four saves in earning his second consecutive clean sheet and Man of the Match honors.

In earning his second clean sheet, the Fire had opportunities early, with midfielder Aleksandar Katai missing on strikes in the eighth minute and again in the 17th minute.

Kronholm faced his first shot on target in the 22nd minute. Houston forward Mauro Manotas’ sent a right-footer from outside the box, and Kronholm dove to his left to push the ball away.

The Fire got on the board with what proved to be the game-winning goal in the final minute of first-half stoppage time. After receiving the ball from midfielder Brandt Bronico after a short corner, Gaitán curled a cross into the box and towards Nemanja Nikolić, who connected with the ball off the bounce and directed it over goalkeeper Tyler Deric.

“Like always, it’s important for strikers to score goals,” Nikolić said. “I think, in my case, I’m here a little bit more than two and a half years and I think I did an amazing job here for this team. In these two and a half years, I don’t miss one game, one training, because of injury and I’m always on the field and I wanted to help my team with the goals.”

The assist was Gaitán’s ninth of the season, most on the team and tied for fourth in MLS.

“It was a set piece that we prepared. The team was ready. We worked on it a lot,” Paunović said of the goal. “As I said, the most important thing is that the team’s timing, the play, the idea worked perfectly because we believed. The team believed in the possibility that we had and we were all on the same page. I think that’s a big thing for a team like us at the moment and situation we are in right now, believing in the team spirit and teamwork and getting those performances, where the teamplay at the end brings you the victory and the win like today.”

In second half stoppage time, with the Dynamo seeking to equalize, Kronholm made a huge save on a shot by Romell Quioto from outside the box. Kronholm leaned to his left and made the save while falling to both knees.

The Fire return to SeatGeek Stadium to host the Montreal Impact on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 8 p.m.

CHICAGO SOCCER

FIRE 1, DYNAMO 0

Nemanja Nikolic scored the lone goal in a 1-0 win over Houston – the Fire’s first road win of 2019. – Photo courtesy of Chicago Fire/MLS

Earth-moving equipment was a familiar sight at 64th and Dante this summer, as crews worked to make the school’s new stadium a reality. – Supplied photos

A football ‘first’ for Mount Carmel High School

Caravan says goodbye to Gately Stadium

From staff reports

For the first time in the history of Mount Carmel High School, all home football games this season will be played at 64th and Dan- te, bringing “Friday Night Lights” to Mount Carmel’s campus.

The upgraded facilities will provide opportunities to host post-season games on campus.

“Gately Stadium was a wonderful part of our football history, but our own stadium on campus will enhance the Mount Carmel football experience for our players, fans and alumni,” said Dan LaCount, Athletic Director at Mount Carmel.

The Barda-Dowling Stadium at Carey Field honors three Mount Carmel families. Jim Barda ’38 (1963) and Kevin Dowling #57 (1996) are the only two players in the rich history of Mount Carmel football to have their numbers retired; both passed away as members of the Caravan football team. The original practice field was dedicated in the 1990s, through the generosity of the Carey family (Jean, Honey, Tom ‘51, Bob ’53, Judy and Tony ’81) in honor of their father, Robert F. Carey, Sr.

“Our main building has been renovated to reflect the state-of-the-art technology needs for educating young men in the 21st century,” said Ned Hughes, president of Mount Carmel. “The stadium project is a further example of our commitment to the young men that attend Mount Carmel. This investment complements the exciting growth taking place in the Woodlawn neighborhood. Within walking distance, our students will have convenient access to the new Obama Presidential Center, the Tiger Woods’ designed PGA golf course, and many new businesses.”

The first home varsity football game in the new stadium will be played on Aug. 30, versus Calumet High School of Gary, Ind. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m.
Do you remember the terrific movie, "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance"? It is such a good movie. I may seek it out and watch it again. There is a controversial political story in the movie. The editor of the local newspaper decided to publish the truth. He says, "When legend becomes fact, print the legend."

Our editor here at the Greater Southwest News-Herald decided to publish the truth. Lucky readers always get the full story. I am so appreciative. As my readers know, I often give a shout out to neighborhood businesses and people. I thought it only right that I give a shout out to editor Tim Hadac. He makes sure we are well informed on everything concerning the Southwest Side of Chicago.

I am not just trying to get a raise or anything. Really, I am sincere. I wouldn’t turn down flowers or cupcakes, though. A tip for drivers would be also appreciated. The bus departs from St Mary’s at 9 a.m. and will arrive at chipublib.org.

Checks to St. Mary, Star of the Sea are accepted. Call Greg at (708) 614-0759 for more information and exact location of departure. Magic Uplighting will be hosting their Fourth Annual Back to School Give Away event on Sunday, Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This will take place at Bella Lanuquetas, 6138 S. Palatine. There will be free school supplies of all kinds, plus games and raffles. Children must be accompanied by adults. Call (773) 304-4073 if you need more information.

The West Lawn Branch Library will be showing four feature films every month. For more information on the screenings, call (312) 747-7381 or visit the library website at chipublib.org.

The library will be hosting an adult discussion about the book and movie Pet Sematary on Monday, Aug. 26 at 6 p.m. This will take place at Ferlamos Restaurant, 11 W. 63rd St. Copies of the book are available at the front desk of the library. I’m sharing this now so that you have time to see the movie and read the book. There will be another adult book discussion on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 2 p.m. Join this group for a lively discussion of the book The Magicians. Copies of this book are available at the front desk.

The library will be wrapping up its popular Summer Learning Explorers at Play program. The Summer Story Time will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Moms and dads can bring their children and listen to stories and play with the Explorer. The Summer Learning Celebration Party will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. Celebrate a summer of play. Registration is not required. Call (773) 617-7381. I want to thank everyone for all the phone calls and texts regarding my Aug. 2 column. This was a follow up to my column of July 26 which I wrote about people living longer and having joy and meaning in their senior years. I got more phone calls than I have ever gotten in my life. Everyone is interested in making a difference, especially in our neighborhood.

In my Aug. 2 column I talked about how seniors can make a phone call to their elders with suggestions on how to improve the lives of everyone who lives in the 23rd and 1st Wards. I shared on ward budget and salaries. This was a call to everyone who called me. I had so many meaningful and sometimes tearful conversations. I am grateful for all the neighbors who called or tested or thought of me. Thank you very much.

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Camila Skye, dear sister of Jose Antonio (Maria), Josefina, Julio Cesar, Milton Eduardo, Manuel Gustavo (Asuncena) and Jose Humberto (Rocia) Diaz; fond sister-in-law of Marcelo (Maria) Llugoi and Amparo Yugui (Víctor Flores); dearest aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held August 4 at Zarzycki Manor Chapel, Ltd., 8999 South Archer Avenue, Willow Springs. Funeral was held August 5 at the funeral home to the Church of St. Gall for Mass. 708-839-8999 or www.ZarzyckiManorChapel.com.

DORIS M. ZANABRIA
Doris M. Zanabria (nee Lukosunas), age 61, passed away July 26. Loving mother of Melissa (Mark) Kelleher, Michelle (Rudy) Guzman and the late Carl Zanabria; dear grandmother of 10; cherished daughter of the late Albert and the late Rosemary Lukosunas; dear sister of Denise (Richard) Janis, Allan (Bonnie) Lukosunas and Dawn (Joseph) Smith. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Special Thank You to Seasons Hospice for the Care given to Doris.

Funeral Service and Interment are private. Arrangements entrusted to the care of Damarin-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7860 S. 88th Avenue, Chicago, IL 708-496-0200 or www.kaminski-familyfunerals.com.

RITA F. ZEGLICZ
Rita F. Zelegicz (nee Bambera), age 95, of Chicago, Garfield Ridge community, passed away July 27. Beloved wife of the late Stanley; loving mother of Edward (Nancy) Zelegicz, Nancy (Denis) Kozad, Louis Zelegicz, Thomas (Late Janie) Zelegicz, Len (Stephanie) Zelegicz and Joseph Zelegicz; proud grandmother of Michael Zelegicz, Michelle (Michael) Lambardo, Jackie (Shawn) Biddingmeyer, Alan (fiannce Lauran) Koziol, Nikki (Tony) Correa and Taylor Hamilton; great grandmother of 10; dear sister of Marie Ernst and many deceased brothers and sisters. Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held July 31 at Foran Funeral Home 7300 West Archer Ave (55th street just west of Harlem). Visitation was held August 1 until time of Prayers, Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at St. Daniel the Prophet Church. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to Rita’s family on her personal tribute website at www.foranfuneralhome.com 708-458-2098.
"These great new amenities here in Dan Ryan Woods reflect our commitment to ensuring that everyone across the county has the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from the nearly 70,000 acres of the Forest Preserves and all they offer," the president continued.

Officials said that the newest upgrades are part of more than $3.5 million in new amenities at Dan Ryan Woods since 2013. Those upgrades have included renovation and reopening of the historic Dan Ryan Pavilion to the public as a venue for indoor events, transformation of a former maintenance building into the new Dan Ryan Visitors Center where people can purchase picnic permits; repair of limestone aqueducts south of 87th Street built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s; and addition of walking paths and new signs to tell the history of the place and help visitors more easily find their way around.

"Dan Ryan Woods is a 257-acre preserve that includes open woodlands and native grasses and wildflowers, a great place to get away into nature right here on the South Side," said Forest Preserves General Superintendent Arnold Randall. "Our mission at the Forest Preserves also includes offering opportunities for recreation in our natural spaces. Dan Ryan Woods is one of our most popular preserves—every year we issue more than 500 permits for picnics and other special events here. These investments bring even more to the site for visitors."

Randall also thanked the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and its Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development program for providing major funding for the work, and the Forest Preserve Foundation and the National Recreation Foundation for their generous support of the construction of the site and the nature play programming. Families enjoying the woods last Sunday seemed to approve of the upgrades. "These stairs are giving me a good workout," said Wrightwood resident Darius Redmond, as he worked up a sweat in the 87-degree heat. "It like this because it's close to home. This way, I don't have to go to Swallow Cliff (near suburban Palos Park) to get a 'stairs' workout. I like it."

Ashburn resident Jose Ricardo Muniz brought his children—Estela, 8, and Diego, 5—to the treehouse, where Estela seemed to enjoy the hammock while her younger brother gleefully pounded the "thunder" drum. "We usually go to Bogan Park, and we like it; but nothing can compare with a forest preserve," he said. "It's a whole different vibe—a lot of fun."

"There is a lot of history here," Preckwinkle said. "For more than 100 years, Dan Ryan Woods has been a forest preserve. Our administration has worked with many partners on a Master Plan to reimagine Dan Ryan Woods and write a new chapter."

The interactive play area appears to be a hit with local children. – Supplied photo

Chicago Police Sergeant Thomas Gorman tells law-abiding members of the 3800 block of West 57th Place that the block belongs to them. – Greater Southwest News-Herald photo by Mary Hadac

Mary Stanek heaped praise upon Eighth District Police, calling them "awesome" and thanking them for their ongoing scrutiny of the goings-on at the block.

Providing leadership at the roll call was 23rd Ward Ald. Silvana Tabares, who mustered several rounds of applause for police and urged everyone to get more active in the fight against crime—starting by attending the National Night Out observance at West Lawn Park, set for the following evening.

She said she is doubly concerned about reports of gang intimidation on the block because it is directly across the street from Peck Elementary School—and school will soon be back in session. Among those traveling to the block to support neighbors in their fight for law and order were West Elsdon civic advocates Sharon and George Maslo, Clearing Night Force team leader Judy Olley and Garfield Ridge resident Al Cacciatore, best known as president of the Garfield Ridge Neighborhood Watch but at the roll call in his day job as Streets and Sanitation chief of the 23rd Ward.
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2-Story in Garfield Ridge. 2 car garage. Huge yard w/pool.
Paul/Mng. Broker 773-229-2313

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4 bedroom, 2 bath brick corner Bungalow. New roof, windows & doors. 2 car garage. Brian/Broker 773-788-2629

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Brick Cape Cod w/side drive. Full bsmt w/workshop.
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Clearing Frame Bungalow. Nice, sunny kitchen, 2 car garage.
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Brick Ranch. 1.5 car garage. 4,199 Sq Ft lot.
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$399,900

**5947 S. OAK PARK**
$329,000
Commercial Building 6 rooms, 2 baths, wet bar, parking for 15 to 25 cars
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